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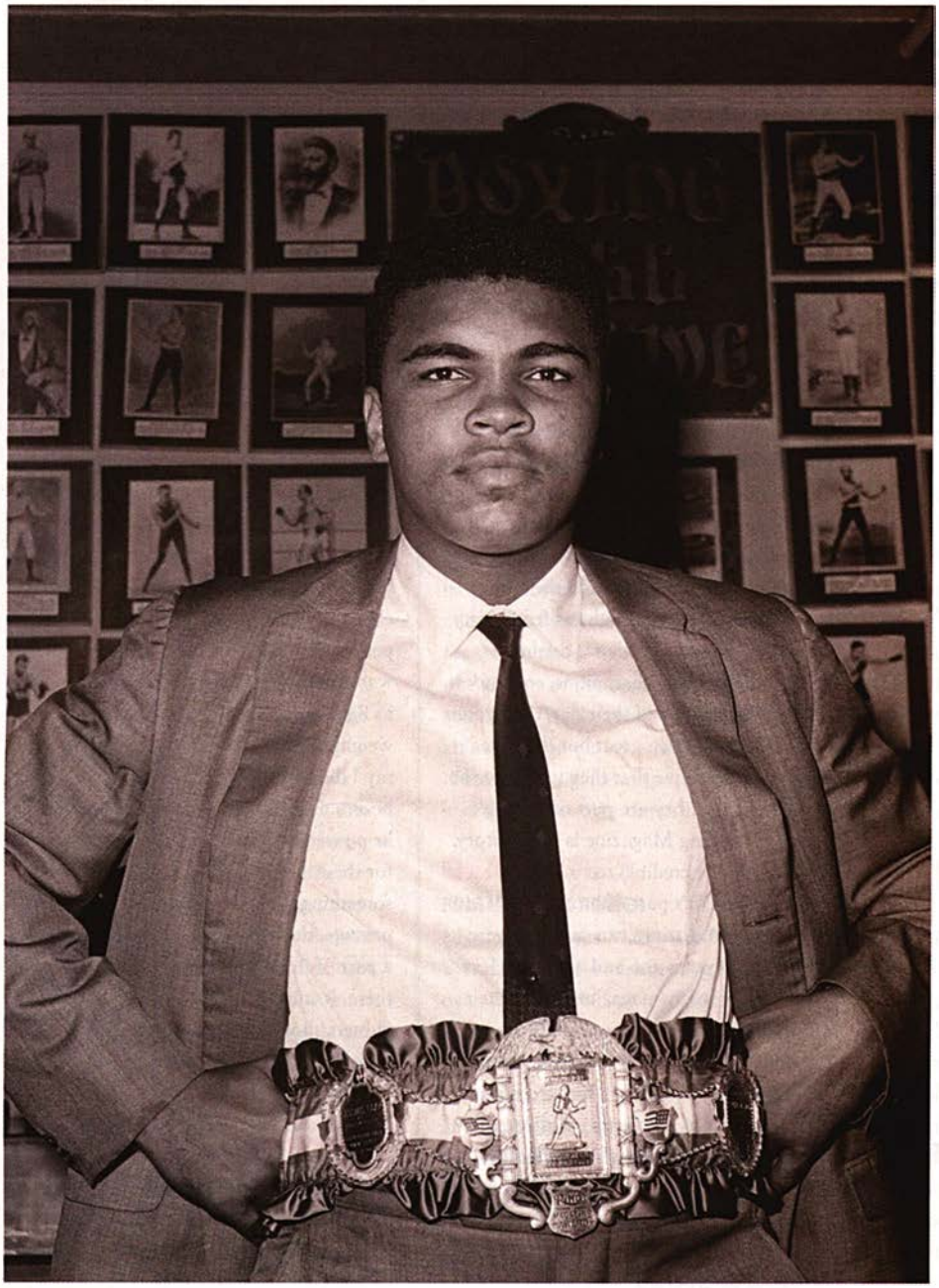

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Muhammad Ali proudly displays his Ring championship belt in 1964.

BOB ARUM,

FOUNDER AND CEO OF TOP RANK

Ring Magazine has chronicled the sport for a century, and as such, its contribution cannot be overstated. In my 55-plus years in boxing, The Ring has been there every step of the way, ringside at all the major fights. I congratulate the staff on 100 years, and I look forward to many more.

KATHY DUVA,

CEO OF MAIN EVENTS

The first time I framed a Ring Magazine cover was in 1984. And that cover still hangs in my office today. In the space of one year, Main Events had gone from small-time club boxing to the proud promoter of four world champions! Johnny Bumphus, Rocky Lockridge, Mike McCallum and Livingstone Bramble were our first-ever world champions and they all won their world titles that year. The Ring put Lou Duva, who up until then had been a popular fringe character on the club fight scene, on its cover with his four newly minted belt holders. As a young publicist, getting that cover was a major coup for me! Over the years, thousands of stories have been written about the dozens of contenders, world champions and eventual Hall of Famers who have fought for Main Events. But it's when they appear on the cover of Ring Magazine that it gets framed and hung on the wall. At this point, I have lost count of how many of those covers are hanging in our building. But it is the first one from 1984 that still hangs above my desk. Ring Magazine has had its ups and downs over the years. But it has remained an institution in boxing. I congratulate The Ring on its 100th year in the sport. And wish it at least 100 more anniversaries!

GUNEY GUNCIKAN,

RING MAGAZINE READER

I was always fascinated by The Ring's cultural impact, and in the history of the sweet science, The Ring's champions have been my favorites. The most satisfying thing in daily life for me is watching old, grainy, black-and-white fights where the fighters really didn't care who they fought but just got out there and gave everything they had in every fight they fought. Marciano, Dempsey, Ali, Kid Gavilan and Sugar Ray Robinson's fights. The Ring was always there. Where I'm from, buying a magazine from other countries is too hard because of the currency and taxes. One day, I went to an area where secondhand booksellers set up shop. While I was looking, I saw a cover between two old books. It was a Ring Magazine from October 1951. Turpin vs. Robinson. The original owner cut out the HOW GOOD IS MARCIANO? title, but the cover was in a good condition. Being able to put my hand on it literally made my day. I immediately framed it and put it on my wall. That was a good day.

BERNARD HOPKINS,

FORMER RING MIDDLEWEIGHT AND LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMP

One hundred years in boxing is such a long time. People talk about my long career, but 100 years is true longevity. The Ring Magazine is iconic. It covered the entire careers of all the iconic fighters from every era. Not only the legends we celebrate today, but all of the champions, contenders and up-and-comers of their day, the fighters that could have been great but their eras were so competitive that they will never be mentioned, but they are part of boxing's history. The Ring Magazine is that history. The Ring is the credible record of the boxing world. It's part of boxing's DNA. How many magazines can say they were relevant 100 years ago and are still relevant today? How many magazines reach their 100th birthday? Not many. The Ring is the Bible of Boxing, a legacy that will live on forever. One hundred years from now, people will learn about my era through the pictures and literature provided by The Ring.

ROBERT HARDING,

RING MAGAZINE READER

I fell in love with The Ring in 1974 when I found a pile of vintage editions in our family attic. My dad (Tim) was an ex-boxer and fistic fanatic. He breathed boxing and loved telling me stories of all the 1950s greats (Archie Moore, Marciano, Sugar Ray, etc). At the height of the Ali/Frazier/Foreman era, I became a fan. Since then, the magazine has become a monthly obsession and I'm proud to say I own every edition since 1970. Plus many earlier editions. I patiently await the next printed edition, and although tempted by the digital age, there's nothing like the old days when you waited to see which legend, current hero or hot prospect would appear on the cover and the gems on the pages within. For me, The Ring remains the "Bible of Boxing" and my ambition is to pen a feature article. For now, this entry will do and I wish all the staff and contributors a happy centenary, and here's to the next 100!

JOE CALZAGHE,

FORMER RING SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT AND LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMP

When I was younger, I always bought The Ring, and being a boxing fan, I looked at [Sugar Ray] Leonard and [Marvin] Hagler, all my favorites, reading up on them. The magazine is synonymous with boxing. When you talk boxing, you talk Ring Magazine. It goes hand-in-hand. For me, it was massively important and I was very proud to win the Ring Magazine championship. I think I was the first person to win it at super middleweight. It was great to do that and then to step up to light heavyweight. I call myself a two-weight world champion, although people say I didn't fight for one of the sanctioning bodies. But for me, stepping up to light heavyweight and fighting Bernard Hopkins for the Ring Magazine championship is something I'm massively proud of. The prestige, the history, for me to have been a part of that twice, in two weights, is up there. It trumps all the other belts. Most fighters should want to be the No. 1 and fight for the ultimate belt, and that is the Ring Magazine belt.

BRUCE TRAMPLER,

MATCHMAKER FOR TOP RANK

Columbia High School's library in Maplewood, New Jersey, had a subscription to The Ring. Hard to believe, I know, but I devoured its contents for two years, and my mother bought me my first copy of *The Ring Record Book*. Studying that record book and reading articles for free in the magazine, especially regional reports of boxing shows around the world (some of which I later wrote) increased my appetite for the sport. I enrolled at Ohio University in Athens in 1967 because it had a top journalism school, but also after reading accounts of Don Elbaum-promoted shows in Cleveland, Akron, Steubenville, Cincinnati, Detroit and McKeesport, Pennsylvania. I wanted to see those towns and watch those fights. I visited The Ring's

New York offices at the old [Madison Square] Garden, then at 120 West 31st Street, met publisher Nat Fleischer and corresponded often with him about boxer records and his world ratings. Over the decades, I managed, matched, or promoted many of the fistic heroes whom I read about in The Ring. I also devoured other publications like Boxing Illustrated and KO, but only The Ring has gone the distance, thanks to Oscar De La Hoya. I own many of Fleischer's books, every record book, and every issue ever published by The Ring. It's played a big role in my life and career.

J RUSSELL PELTZ,

PROMOTER

I was 13 when I bought my first issue of The Ring around February 1960 at Evans Drug Store in the Bala Cynwyd (Pennsylvania) Shopping Center. I couldn't believe it when I saw it. A magazine about boxing. I believe there were photos of the first Patterson-Johansson fight on the cover. I had fallen in love with boxing the previous summer. I eventually got a subscription and later became one of the few people worldwide who had an entire collection dating back to the first issue in 1922. I had them all bound by years and they were displayed prominently wherever I lived. No publication – and that includes the Sporting News – ever wielded as much power over its sport as The Ring did over boxing. If The Ring did not recognize you as world champion, then you were not world champion. The National Boxing Association (NBA) was laughed at back in the day and The Ring usually sided with the New York State Athletic Commission as to who was the real world champ if any disputes arose. The world rankings in The Ring were a highlight.

I would scan the agate-type results from different parts of the country and the world and they became very useful when, as a promoter, we tried to compile records of Mexican fighters and others. The Ring Record Book only came out once a year and I eventually amassed three complete sets, many signed by Nat Fleischer, Nat Loubet and Bert Sugar. I used to take a copy of the record book to overnight camp with me in the early 1960s to study. Founder, publisher and editor Nat Fleischer was boxing's unofficial commissioner. Sadly, The Ring fell into bad times in 1977 when it was less-than-honest while being used for fodder in Don King's U.S. Boxing Championships, televised by ABC but shortly canceled when it became known that The Ring's records and rankings were, in many cases, manufactured to benefit certain persons involved in the tournament. Bert Sugar, Randy Gordon, Steve Farhood and Nigel Collins tried to resurrect it, but times were changing, the internet was arriving and boxing was fading as a major sport as we headed into the 21st century. At one time I had purchased the original artwork (C.R. Schaare and Stanley Weston) of about a dozen covers, but half of them burned when my office was firebombed in 1999. Twenty years later, I sold many of the others. I still have one or two in my collection. I sold my collection of The Ring in 2019. It was a bittersweet transaction and I hated to let it go but it was time for someone else to enjoy it. I had not opened one of the bound volumes in quite some time. While The Ring never had the abundance of quality writers like Sports Illustrated, its place in sports publication history can never be diminished.

DEAN BERKS,

RING MAGAZINE READER

My first issue was March 1987, with Mike Tyson on the cover celebrating his title win over Trevor Berbick. I read and re-read that issue countless times, impatiently waiting for the next one to come out. I was well and truly hooked! So many great writers and issues have passed since that time. Being fortunate to have been a spectator for the heavyweight era that contained Holyfield, Lewis, Bowe, Tyson, Foreman, Moorer, Mercer, Morrison and Seldon has to be my personal highlight. The stories and coverage of their battles was superb and these qualities have continued over the years. I have always been a supporter of the Ring championship and its recognition of the best in each division being based on merit, not finance – still a breath of fresh air in today's confusion of trinkets. Keep up the fantastic work, and we look forward to another 100 years of the "Bible of Boxing."

WRITE TO THE RING! Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 90254, Brooklyn, NY 11209 comeoutwriting@gmail.com ★ Emailed letters will include a writer's email address unless a city and state of origin are provided. Letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity.

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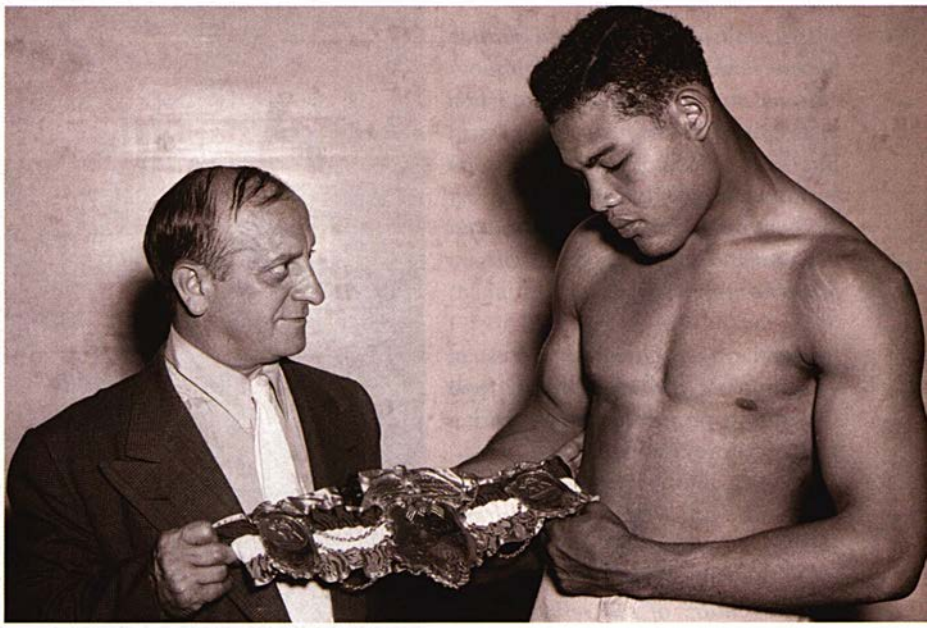
RINGSIDE BY DOUG FISCHER

STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF MIRACLE WORKERS (OR, 'IT AIN'T ALL BEER AND SKITTLES')



Fleischer presents Joe Louis with the Ring title in 1937.

We know boxing can be a brutal sport. Most of you are also aware that it's a tough, complicated and unforgiving business. So is publishing. If you didn't know that, take it from me or just ask anyone who's ever been on the staff of a monthly magazine.

So, it goes without saying that producing a publication about boxing ain't easy, especially in the digital age. But as I've learned from previous Ring editors, it's NEVER been easy.

Today we strive to thrive in the face of disappearing newsstands, bookstores, distributors and printers.

Nat Fleischer, a former newsman and editor, founded this magazine when print media was king, but that didn't mean the early decades of his Editor-In-Chief tenure were without challenges.

Fleischer and his staff kept the magazine going during the rise of organized crime, and through the lean and uncertain times of The Great Depression and World War II.

Today, the Ring staff deals with the headaches caused by the fragile egos of fighters, promoters, managers and fans. Fleischer had to hear the same whining and complaints, but he also had to deal with real-life gangsters involved in the fight game. Ruffling the wrong feathers in Nat's day could result in more than a headache; you could wind up with a pipe in your head!

I wonder if Fleischer could have imagined putting the magazine out during a pandemic, as my staff has during the past two years. Of course he could! The Ring was founded just a couple years after the Spanish flu pandemic had ravaged the world between 1918-1920. That's how freakin' old this magazine is!

What you hold in your hands is a miracle.

And speaking of miracles, Fleisher was still alive and at the helm of The Ring when the publication celebrated its 50th anniversary. In that June 1972 issue, Fleischer recounted the ups and downs of those five decades after a few introductory grafs of his editorial

column NAT FLEISCHER SPEAKS OUT:

It hasn't been easy, for 50 years, to continue publication of The Ring without skipping an issue.

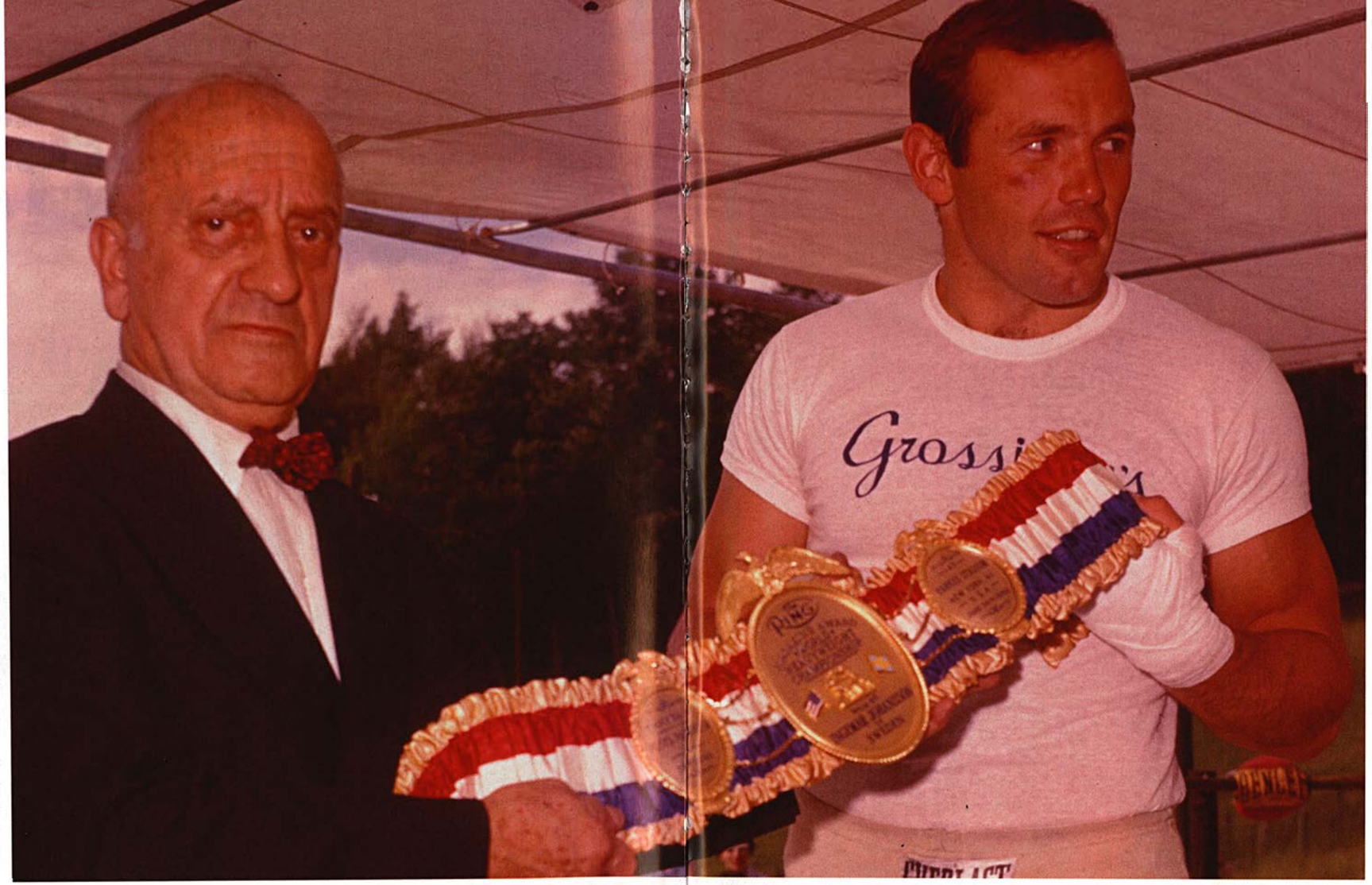
It wasn't always beer and skittles, birthday cakes and hurrah.

It was tough during the Depression in 1929 and the next couple of years. But the readers of The Ring stood by the magazine, by its principles, by its reputation for clean and honest determinations in a sport which is so full of controversy.

Fleischer recounted examples of various trials and tribulations, from lawsuits to printer and dock worker strikes, before continuing:

No, it hasn't been all beer and skittles. Fifty years of watching every word that appeared in this magazine. Half a century of self reliance. Fifty years of refusing "financial favors." Half a century of calling an ace an ace, and a knave a knave.

The beauty of it all in our early years was the attitude of the boxing public. Circulation grew. Subscription lists grew. The fans wrote in. "Good for you," and they backed their attitude at the newsstands. They still do.



Fleischer and Ingemar Johansson display the Ring heavyweight title in 1960.

Allow me to interrupt the words of the grand old master and thank today's fans, some of whom have never seen a newsstand, who subscribe to The Ring or purchase it from the online Ring Shop or wherever they can find it, and to those who eagerly post images of the latest issue on their social media as soon as they get their hands on it.

Your enthusiasm and pleasure in consuming and sharing the content we work so hard to create means the world to us. If you don't know who the "us" I'm referring to are, allow me to bow before Senior Editor Brian Harty, Managing Editor Tom Gray and Creative Director Lamar Clark.

Allow me also to extend a very special thank you to our controller, Deborah Harrison, and Circulation Director Ken Gudaitis. Tom, Brian, Lamar and I are the passion, intellect and creativity behind the current incarnation of The Ring, but Debbie and Ken are truly the publication's heart and soul. This magazine would not exist without them.

Harrison does so much more than manage the magazine's accounting operations. She deals with the advertisers, printers, subscription and customer service, the online store, fulfillment and inventory, and a dozen other things I don't know enough about to describe. She's been The Ring's backbone since Nigel Collins was Editor-In-Chief. It was Harrison's idea to have the former editors of The Ring contribute to this issue.

I hope you enjoy reading the tales from Randy Gordon, Steve Farhood, Nigel Collins and Michael Rosenthal as much as I did. Gordon's story behind the iconic "Hitman" cover was especially nostalgic for me. The issues he put out with Bert Sugar from 1979 to the mid-1980s were the first Ring magazines I read and bought as a boy (I hope that doesn't make you feel old, Randy). Gordon's article provided a delightful snapshot of boxing, publishing, New York City and life in general in 1980; not to mention Sugar in all his fedora-wearing, cigar-puffing, Scotch-drinking glory.

It was Gordon who told me a few years back, following a very stressful first full year as EIC, that putting out the magazine is "always a struggle." I found it comforting, as strange as it sounds, that The Bible of Boxing faced an unsure future during what I have always considered a "Golden Age" of the sport.

Gordon told me the magazine was "basically out of business" when he and Sugar took it over, and he was proud of what they had accomplished during their relatively short tenure.

Before the end of the decade, the publication was once again in dire straits, as Farhood notes in his article. It was Gudaitis who negotiated the purchase of the magazine from Dave DeBusschere and the NBA hall of famer's business partner Nick Kladis on behalf of Stanley Weston.

"Weston had worked for Nat Fleischer in his teenage years before he entered the service, and then for a few years after World War II," recalled Gudaitis. "He started up boxing and wrestling magazines to compete with The Ring after he left, but it was his dream to own The Ring at some point in his life. I believe I made his dream come true when I purchased it for him."

Weston founded the London Publishing Company, which owned, among other boxing publications, the popular KO Magazine. Gudaitis was President of London Publishing and would serve as President of The Ring from 1989 until his retirement in 2006.

"The magazine was not in good shape financially at the time. In fact, they had just filed for bankruptcy one week before I purchased it," said Gudaitis. "I feel partially responsible for bringing The Ring back to prosperity."

I fondly remember the London Publishing years of The Ring, and I enjoyed its sister publications – the monthly KO and bi-monthlies Boxing and Boxing World – as much as the flagship. I got my first freelance articles published in The Ring during the mid-'90s. As proud as I was of seeing my name in those pages, the section of the magazine I always turned to first was the ratings. If I didn't agree with them, I'd circle the names of the fighters in pen and draw lines to where I thought they should be ranked.

Fleischer continues:

Always, letters from fans about the ratings. "You did well," say 100. "You did a bad job," holler 50. Controversy, the life blood of the game.

Some things never change. I love that The Ring's ratings still ignite the passions of hardcore fans, especially those who dwell in the Twitterverse. It's irrefutable proof that our rankings are still relevant.

I'm honestly looking forward to the feedback of the unique all-time rankings in the key feature of this issue.

Historians and purists will no doubt rejoice, but so will new fans, those who began following boxing within the last 10 years. They will see the names of their favorite fighters mixed in with the old-timers. Weirdos like me will be stoked that forgotten Hall of Famers like Young Corbett III and Sammy Angott made the top 25.

I like to think that Fleischer would also be pleased to see those familiar names, along with McLarnin, Canzoneri, Pep, Louis, Robinson, Charles, Moore and Armstrong. He witnessed and covered their entire careers, a span of 50 years.

Thirty years and 20 more, and The Ring goes on, the sport goes on, champions come and go, and boxing flourishes in places where it was not

BETTMAN

known in 1922, when The Ring first hit the newsstands.

It has been fun. It has been worry. It has been hard work. It has been easy work. It has been sweat and trouble. It has been attar of roses and the glory of a great, enduring and wonderful sport.

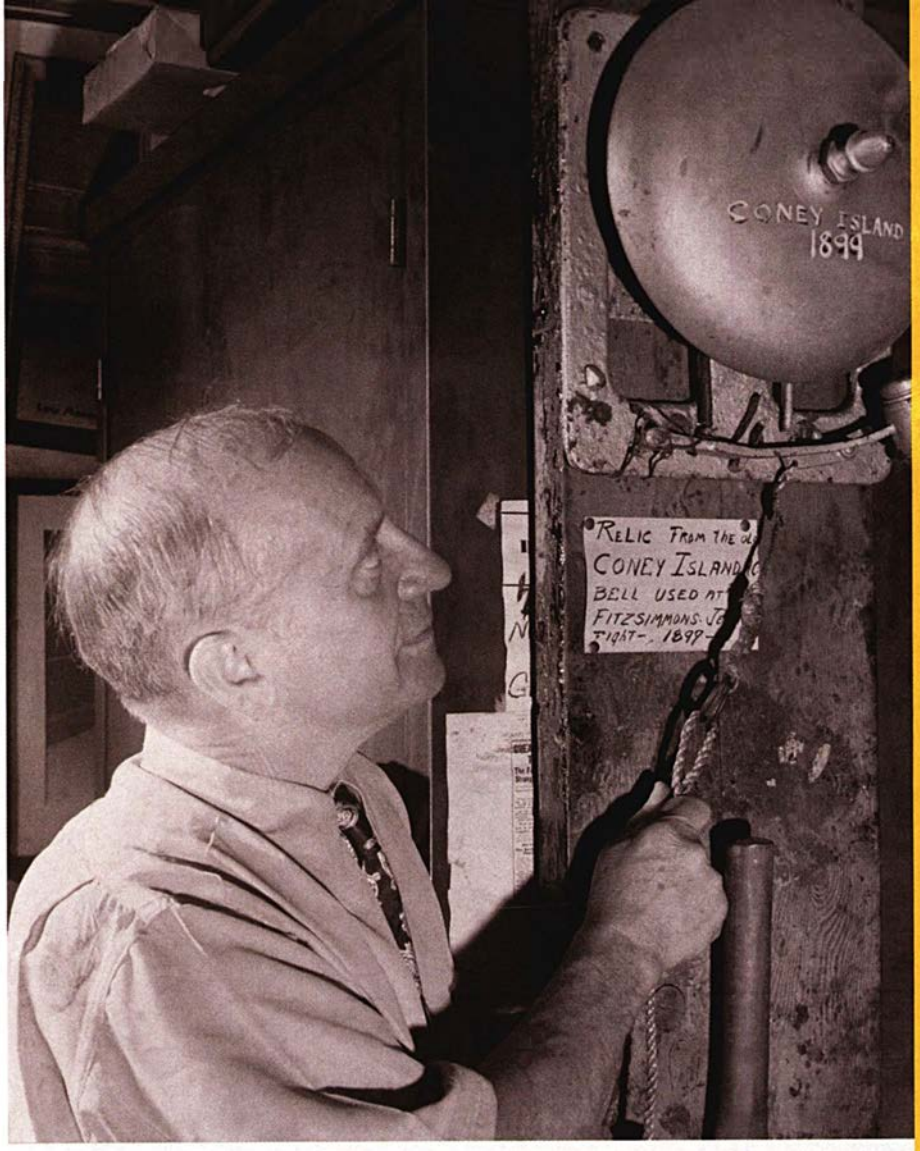
I could have ended this column with these eloquent words. I wanted to, but they sound too much like an ending, and I should note that Fleischer passed away a few months after completing the 50th anniversary issue.

I'm a lot younger than Nat was when he penned those words and I believe The Ring has a bright future. It is, after all, owned by Oscar De La Hoya, a former fighter. And fighters don't quit.

I'd like to dedicate the rest of this column to more "thank yous" – first to De La Hoya, Golden Boy Promotions President Eric Gomez and Golden Boy partner Bernard Hopkins, for standing by The Ring when others threatened to discontinue the magazine.

Second, a big thank you to our frequent and regular contributors, among them Joseph Santoliquito, who conducted the Q&A with Bob Arum that appears in this issue. Bob's only 10 years younger than The Ring and he's still going on strong. That's inspiration!

Joe's been writing for The Ring for 25 years. He also served as associate and managing editor for 15 years. Big thanks to proofreader David Greisman, columnist Thomas Hauser, cover artist Richard T. Slone, illustrator KronkAAArt, photographer Wojtek Urbanek, Spanish-language editor Diego Morilla, Tom Gerbasi, Gareth A Davies, Don Stradley, Ron Borges, Bernard Fernandez, Anson Wainwright, Tris Dixon, Lee Groves, Dan Rafael, Steve Kim, Michael Montero, Ron Lipton, Ryan Songalia, Yuriko Miyata, Droeks Malan and Jamie Rebner. Special thanks to Cliff Rold, who devoted three years of extensive research to compile the list of 100 exceptional fighters that comprise the TO BE THE BEST article.



Fleischer honored boxing history as The Ring covered the sport for 50 years.

And, lastly, I'd like to acknowledge the people who helped Fleischer produce the magazine for 50 years, and those who carried the torch after his reign: The owners (his son-in-law Nat Loubet, DeBusschere and Kladis, Weston, Nick Karabots and De La Hoya), the publishers (Sugar, Loubet, Weston and Stuart M. Saks), and the many editors/art directors (Loubet, Daniel M. Daniel, Jersey Jones, Johnny Salak, Lewis Eskin, Charley Williams, Ed Brennan, George Girsch, Sugar, Gordon, Richard Kubicz, Herbert G. Goldman, Bob Yalen, E.J. Gary, Arthur Rembert, Jack Goodman, Ben Sharav, Steve Medwid, Roy Anderson, Farhood, Craig Peters, Jeff Ryan, Kenneth Morgan, Robert Cassidy, Joseph C. Tintle, Edward P. Maloney, Al Bello, Eric A. Karabell, Bill Apter, Barbara Ann Brady, Collins, Eric Raskin, Santoliquito, William Dettloff, Walt Schmidt, Wendy Vetter, Joseph Kalman, Dave Lenker, Brandi Mankiewicz, Jim Malloy and Monica Fisher).

Special shout-outs to late, great columnist/illustrator Ted Carroll, to former art director David Romanosky for being our press checker, and to our charming and always-helpful printer rep, Michael Fragassi.

If I missed anyone who is still among the living (and I know I did), I apologize. If you're still alive and able-bodied enough to travel, please approach me in person, preferably at a future boxing event, where I can thank you to your face.

Then let's sit down for some beer and skittles. My treat.

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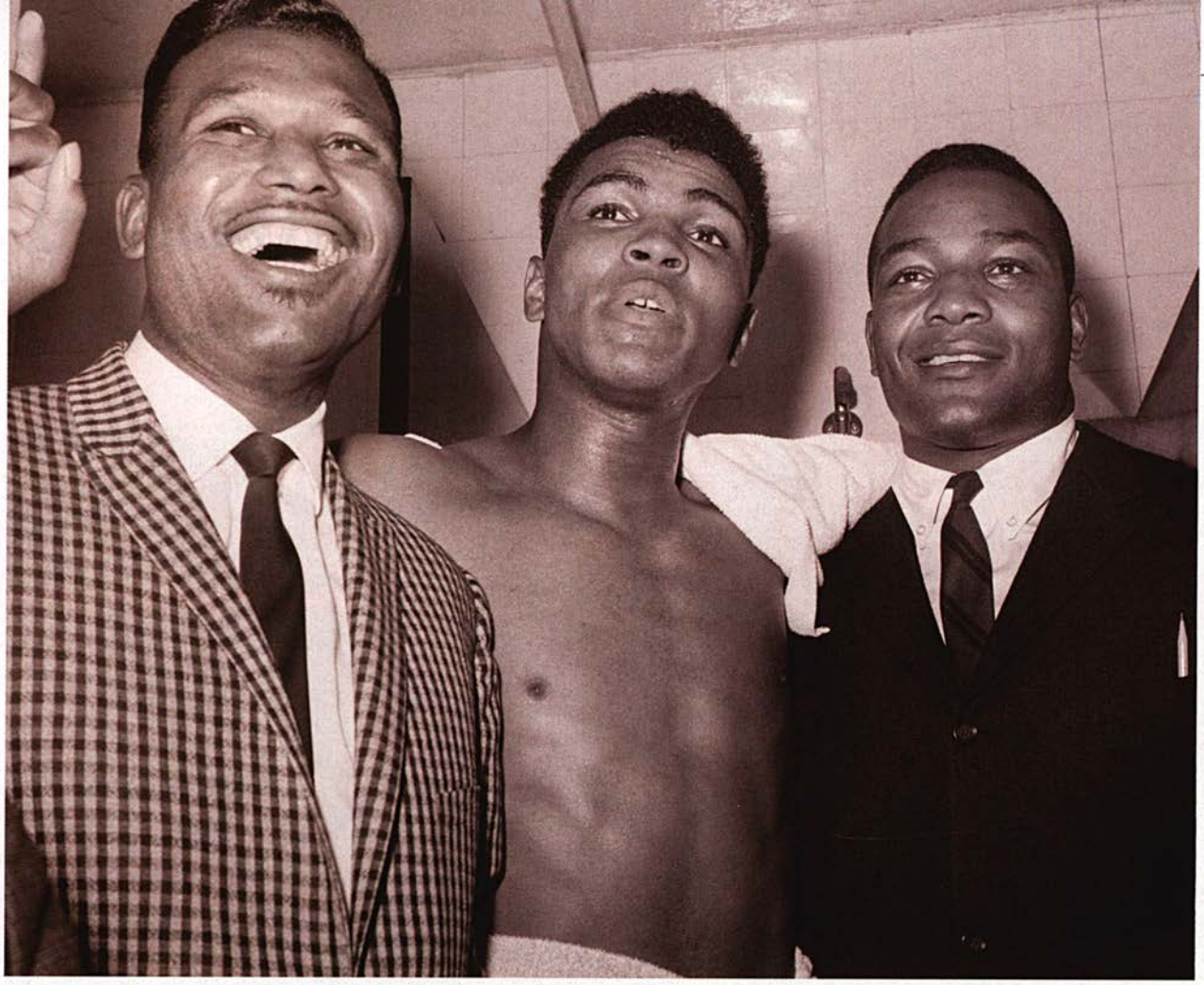


JABS AND STRAIGHT WRITES

BY THOMAS HAUSER

THE PAGES THAT BIND

Sugar Ray Robinson, Muhammad Ali and football legend Jim Brown in 1963.

A.J. Liebling wrote, "It is through Jack O'Brien that I trace my rapport with the historic past through the laying-on of hands. He hit me, for pedagogical example, and he had been hit by the great Bob Fitzsimmons from whom he won the light-heavyweight title in 1906. Fitzsimmons had been hit by Corbett, Corbett by John L. Sullivan, he by Paddy Ryan with the bare knuckles, and Ryan by Joe Goss, his predecessor who as a young man had felt the fist of the great Jem Mace. It is a great thrill to feel that all that separates you from the early Victorians is a series of punches on the nose."

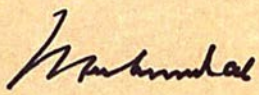
Like Liebling's punches on the nose, The Ring binds boxing history together. I felt that very strongly 25 years ago when I attended the magazine's 75th Anniversary Dinner in Atlantic City. Countless ring greats were in attendance. Ali-Frazier III was honored as the "best fight" during The Ring's existence. The "best round" was the opening stanza of Hagler-Hearns. "Best knockout" – Ray Robinson's one-punch KO of Gene Fullmer. "Best trainer" – Eddie Futch.

The most important award was "best fighter." The nominees were Joe Louis, Henry Armstrong, Muhammad Ali and Sugar Ray Robinson. Ali had been told in advance that Robinson would be the honoree. He wanted to pay tribute to Sugar Ray but was unable to attend and asked that I read a poem in his absence:

BETTMANN

A Concession Speech of Sorts to Sugar Ray Robinson
By Muhammad Ali

Sugar Ray was handsome. But I'm more than handsome; I'm pretty
Sugar Ray was clever. But I'm smart and witty
Sugar Ray was a fighter I always admired
But if Sugar Ray ever fought me, with all my dancing, by the end of round two he'd be tired.
Pound-for-Pound; you can argue about who's best for days.
Aw, give it to Ray; he invented the phrase
Calling him Pound-for-Pound is easy to see
As long as you remember, The Greatest is me.



Now, 25 years later, The Ring is celebrating its 100th anniversary. Very few magazines reach that age. Since The Ring was first published in February 1922, thousands of publications have come and gone. Well-established institutions like Time (first published in 1923) and Sports Illustrated (1954) have yet to reach the century mark.

The first issue of The Ring was published in February 1922 under the guidance of Nat Fleischer.

"You have to remember the era we're talking about," historian Randy Roberts says. "In 1920, the Walker Act legalized boxing in New York. In 1921, Jack Dempsey fought Georges Carpentier in New Jersey in front of 80,000 fans, which was the largest crowd in America to witness a sporting event up until that time. Dempsey-Carpentier was also the first world championship fight broadcast blow-by-blow on radio. This is the beginning of modern boxing. And one year later, The Ring comes along, takes boxing out of the hands of the Police Gazette and becomes the sport's most important publication."

Fleischer was sometimes careless with facts. And he was known to tilt editorial coverage to favor certain fighters. But The Ring would become known as "The Bible of Boxing."

At age 91, Jerry Izenberg is almost as old as The Ring. "We've both endured through good times and bad," the dean of American sportswriters says. "I like to think that I've done some good writing about boxing. And The Ring was once enormously important. Boxing owes the idea of 'pound-for-pound' to The Ring. Long before today's sanctioning bodies tarnished the word 'champion,' the Ring belt was boxing's most prestigious title. And before the internet came along, The Ring Record Book was essential for anyone who wrote about boxing."

Sports fans today expect instant results. RingTV.com meets that need. But in addition to its online presence, The Ring survives as a print publication.

As for the value of early issues of The Ring, Craig Hamilton (boxing's foremost memorabilia dealer) notes, "The first issue of The Ring has value as a collectible. In good condition, it's worth about $2,500. Other issues from 1922 are worth $300 to $400 each. Once you get to the 1940s, the value drops considerably because so many copies are available. Depending on the cover subject and condition, they sell for 20 to 40 dollars each. And the market goes down from there."

In 2010, Hamilton bought a set of bound copies of The Ring from 1922 through 1987 at auction for $4,125. "That was a steal," he says. More recently, he brokered the sale of a collection of bound issues from 1922 through 2019 for $15,000. That was a generous price.

"There was a time when the cover of each issue of The Ring was designed around an original painting," Hamilton adds. "Most of

Foreman was a Ring reader before he made his name in boxing.

them were oil on canvas and some of them are quite nice. The original paintings for some of those covers sell for as much as six or seven thousand dollars each. That's if you're talking about Jack Dempsey, Joe Louis or Sugar Ray Robinson."

But forget about dollars. Let's give the last word about The Ring to the people most important to the magazine – the fighters.

George Foreman is one of boxing's most respected elder statesmen. The Ring was 46 years old (less than halfway through its journey to date) when Foreman won a gold medal in the heavyweight division at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City.

"Boxing matches were on TV," George recalls. "But in those days, a clear broadcast was rare and hardly ever seen in color. And forget about close-ups of the boxer's face. When I saw my first Ring Magazine, I was thrilled to see boxers in the real. Ring Magazine made them human beings I could touch, heroes I could imitate. I started going to the newsstand monthly, looking for the next issue of Ring, looking for myself somewhere. In 1968, a line or two started to appear. That was special to me."

And Sugar Ray Leonard adds a thought. Leonard – regarded by many as the greatest fighter since the original Sugar Ray – looks back on his years in boxing and says, "Ring Magazine gave me more than just boxing news. It gave me confidence in myself. To be on the cover of Ring Magazine meant I'd finally made it!"

Thomas Hauser's email address is thomashauserwriter@gmail.com. His most recent book – Broken Dreams: Another Year Inside Boxing – was published by the University of Arkansas Press. In 2004, the Boxing Writers Association of America honored Hauser with the Nat Fleischer Award for career excellence in boxing journalism. In 2019, he was selected for boxing's highest honor - induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

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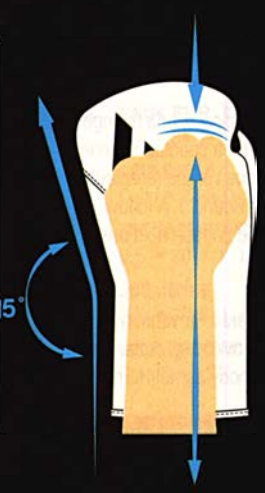

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RATINGS

SUMMARY ★ ANALYSIS

The Ring Ratings through fights of November 13, 2021

RECENT FIGHT RESULTS AND CHANGES IN THE RING'S DIVISIONAL RANKINGS

BY BRIAN HARTY

HEAVYWEIGHT: Oscar Rivas (No. 9 last month) was removed from the ratings after winning a solid unanimous decision over Ryan Rozicki in Montreal – removed in part because the fight was contested for the honor of being the WBC's first bridgerweight titleholder.

Bridgerweight, which occupies an avoirdupois danger zone that nobody knew about until WBC President Mauricio Sulaiman pointed it out (201-224 pounds), has caused confusion ever since its conception, and this fight – although decent enough – did little to justify its existence.

To begin with, Rivas fought as a heavyweight in the range of 230-240 pounds for a decade before sucking in his gut to be a trailblazer in male boxing's 18th division, while Rozicki is a career cruiserweight who barely cracked 200 for the first time and was still outweighed by 20 pounds. So this was a big guy beating up on a small guy, exactly the kind of situation bridgerweight was designed to avoid. Second, we just saw a former cruiserweight champion, Oleksandr Usyk, emphatically rip three heavyweight titles from the waist of Anthony Joshua, exactly the kind of 21st century colossus that bridgerweight was designed to protect the "little guys" from. And Usyk did it weighing seven pounds less than Rivas! Against the drama of a David vs. Goliath triumph like that, bridgerweight now looks like nothing more than a consolation prize for guys who lack the superlative skills to be all-time greats in the glamour division.

Thankfully, Usyk has shown no interest in consolation prizes, and bridgerweight won't be getting its own category in our ratings for the time being. Technically we'd still consider Rivas a heavyweight, but the Ratings Panel decided he doesn't look like a top 10'er anymore, so he was dropped and undefeated Croatian Filip Hrgovic came in at No. 10.

CRUISERWEIGHT: Mateusz Masternak stayed put at No. 9 after stopping Armend Xhoxhaj, who was kept off-balance by the Polish veteran's jab and got caught by a chopping right in the fourth round.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT: By the time 2021 comes to a close, two fighters on the pound-for-pound list at the time of publication will have fought twice, six will have seen action once and one will have gone the entire year without a payday. Canelo Alvarez, No. 1 on the list, has fought three times. This would be an insane level of activity in any modern year for the biggest star in boxing (sorry, Jake Paul), but COVID has made the last two years even leaner than usual, so that in itself is reason to praise the redhead from Guadalajara.

The cherry on top of this triple-layer treat is that Canelo's 11th-round stoppage of Caleb Plant made him the first undisputed champion at 168 pounds in history. The first Mexican undisputed champ at any weight, Showtime crew? We'll have to ask Ruben Olivares and conduct a couple seances before getting back to you about that. But yes, regardless, Canelo is the first Mexican to possess the Ring, IBF, WBA, WBC and WBO titles at the same time, and if we had a Fighter of the Month in this issue, he'd be that too.

How did Canelo-Plant play out? With the nuanced locution that I have come to appreciate so much over the years, Editor-in-Chief Doug Fischer described it this way on a recent conference call: "It was a typical Canelo vs. a stick-and-mover fight: walking him down, not giving a fuck, not caring about judges because he knows he's gonna beat him down and knock the son of a bitch out." Canelo is, the chief added, the deserving heir to the most badass credo ever, courtesy of Joe Louis: They can run, but they can't hide. And indeed, Plant could not hide his chin well enough beneath three inches of beard to avoid the perfect right uppercut that floored him for the first time in his career in Round 11. A series of ramrods put him down again soon afterward. In a mark of his own quality, the Tennessee native maintained his No. 2 ranking even in defeat.

As for Canelo, he's not taking a break. Two of the top names on trainer Eddy Reynoso's hitlist are 175-pound titleholders Artur Beterbiev (No. 1) and Dmitry Bivol (No. 2). As we were going to press, the WBC announced that it had approved a fight between Canelo and cruiserweight titleholder Ilunga Makabu (No. 2). We need more of this kind of thing.

On the Canelo-Plant undercard, hoping to make a case for a shot at the winner, Anthony Dirrell knocked out Marcos Hernandez with a pinpoint right uppercut in the fourth round. It's unlikely that Dirrell will get that shot, given Canelo's giant-slaying ambitions, but he did hold his position at No. 4 on the list.

If the pound-for-pound king ever does return to super middleweight, he could choose what one of our panelists called the "most interesting fight for Canelo at 168" and face the man who fought in Phoenix the following weekend: No. 1-rated David Benavidez. The hometown kid faced a valiant late replacement in Kyrone Davis and was able to secure a seventh-round stoppage by way of some wicked body shots.

MIDDLEWEIGHT: If you know Gabriel Rosado, you know that if he was getting shredded by a grizzly bear for three minutes, he'd go to his corner, take a sip of water and then be waiting in the center of the ring saying, "Bears ain't shit." He didn't win many points against Jaime Munguia on November 13 in California, but he made it an entertaining fight. For his part, the young Munguia showed why he's one of the enduring "high potential" stories in boxing, using a very active and combination-rich attack to win a unanimous decision and climb from No. 6 to No. 5 in the ratings. His defense is a little more iffy, but hopefully we'll see it tested soon in a title shot against Jermall Charlo (No. 2), Demetrius Andrade (No. 3) or even Gennadiy Golovkin (No. 1).

WELTERWEIGHT: Potential isn't even an issue for Jaron Ennis anymore; it's just how high he can go. After Ennis' first-round annihilation of Thomas Dulorme, one panelist said, "Special, special talent. I think he's a generational talent. Could well be a pound-for-pound guy in the future." The southpaw from Philly floored Dulorme (unrated) once with an ear-seeking right hook and then again with a three-punch combo that sucked the juice from the Puerto Rican's limbs. Ennis rose from No. 7 to No. 5 as a result.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT: Jose Zepeda avenged some pre-fight nonsense with a spectacular one-two-slip move that sent Josue Vargas (unrated) face-first into the canvas in Round 1. A follow-up barrage ended the show and Zepeda held onto his No. 3 ranking.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT: Shakur Stevenson notched his best win yet, outworking, outlanding and just out-brutalizing a bloody Jamel Herring,

ultimately stopping the incumbent WBO titleholder in Round 10 and further reassuring fans that he doesn't fight like an amateur anymore. Herring dropped from No. 1 to No. 3 and Stevenson jumped from No. 5 all the way to the top.

FEATHERWEIGHT: In a month that had a lot of dramatic endings, perhaps the most shocking took place in Sheffield, England, in front of IBF titleholder Kid Galahad's hometown fans. It was all following the script as Galahad (rated No. 2 at the time) outboxed 35-year-old Kiko Martinez for nearly five rounds. To that point, Martinez "literally hadn't won five seconds of that fight," as one panelist put it in the post-fight ratings discussion. Then, with about 15 seconds remaining in the fifth, the tightly wound Spaniard landed a flush, fully committed right hook on Galahad's face and the favorite was on his back and badly hurt. Saved by the bell, Galahad's team did their best to revive him, but the first punch Martinez landed in the sixth – another right – sealed the upset and put the underdog in the books as a two-division titleholder (he held the IBF junior featherweight strap from 2013-2014). Galahad fell to No. 7 on the list and Martinez, previously unrated, entered at No. 5.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHT: Agustin Gauto remained at No. 8 after a first-round knockout of late substitute Jaba Memishishi in Germany.

STRAWWEIGHT: No. 2-rated Petchmanee CP Freshmart, aka Panya Pradabsri, defended his WBC title with a cruise-control decision over countryman Danai Ngiabphukhiaw, while on the undercard, Wanheng Menayothin, aka Chayaphon Moonsri (No. 3), kept his blood flowing with a knockout of Jinnawat Rienpit. Neither of those fights meant much, except that the two winners now seem poised for a rematch of their 2020 fight (won by Freshmart in very narrow fashion) in early 2022.

And finally, Yudai Shigeoka, just 4-0 (2 KOs), replaced Melvin Jerusalem at No. 10 after winning a majority decision over former list resident Tsubasa Koura.

WOMEN'S BOXING: On October 30 in London, undefeated WBC junior welterweight titleholder Chantelle Cameron (rated No. 1 at the time) faced IBF counterpart Mary McGee (No. 2), and it was Cameron who stepped up and shined with a full showcase of her skills and speed en route to a wide unanimous decision. The 1 and 2 rankings meant the inaugural Ring championship was also on the line, so England's Cameron is now the queen. She also rose from No. 8 to No. 6 on the pound-for-pound list.

A week later in Las Vegas, undefeated Southern Californian Mikaela Mayer became The Ring's first female champion at junior lightweight with a beautifully engineered performance against Maiva Hamadouche, winning a unanimous decision that also unified the IBF and WBO titles.

Alycia Baumgardner then stormed into the 130-pound ratings at No. 2 after a fourth-round stoppage of Terri Harper, who dropped from No. 1 to No. 5, and Dina Thorslund upended the bantamweight division, moving from No. 5 to No. 1 with a seventh-round knockout of Zulia Munoz, who went from No. 1 to No. 4.

P4P

1. **CANELO ALVAREZ** — Mexico • 57-1-2 (39 KOs)
2. **OLEKSANDR USYK** — Ukraine • 19-0-0 (13 KOs)
3. **NAOYA INOUE** — Japan • 21-0-0 (18 KOs)
4. **TERENCE CRAWFORD** — U.S. • 37-0-0 (28 KOs)
5. **JOSH TAYLOR** — U.K. • 18-0-0 (13 KOs)
6. **ERROL SPENCE JR.** — U.S. • 27-0-0 (21 KOs)
7. **TEOFIMO LOPEZ** — U.S. • 16-0-0 (12 KOs)
8. **JUAN FRANCISCO ESTRADA** — Mexico • 42-3-0 (28 KOs)
9. **VASILIY LOMACHENKO** — Ukraine • 15-2-0 (11 KOs)
10. **KAZUTO IOKA** — Japan • 27-2-0 (15 KOs)

HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT UNLIMITED

- C **TYSON FURY** RING, WBC — U.K. • 31-0-1 (22 KOs)
- 1 **OLEKSANDR USYK** IBF, WBA, WBO — Ukraine • 19-0-0 (13 KOs)
- 2 **ANTHONY JOSHUA** — U.K. • 24-2-0 (22 KOs)
- 3 **DEONTAY WILDER** — U.S. • 42-2-1 (41 KOs)
- 4 **DILLIAN WHYTE** — U.K. • 28-2-0 (19 KOs)
- 5 **JOSEPH PARKER** — New Zealand • 29-2-0 (21 KOs)
- 6 **ANDY RUIZ JR.** — U.S. • 34-2-0 (22 KOs)
- 7 **LUIS ORTIZ** — Cuba • 32-2-0 (27 KOs)
- 8 **MICHAEL HUNTER** — U.S. • 20-1-1 (14 KOs)
- 9 **JOE JOYCE** — U.K. • 13-0-0 (12 KOs)
- 10 **FILIP HRGOVIC** — Croatia • 13-0-0 (11 KOs)

CRUISERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 200 POUNDS

- C **MAIRIS BRIEDIS** RING, IBF — Latvia • 28-1-0 (20 KOs)
- 1 **YUNIEL DORTICOS** — Cuba • 24-2-0 (22 KOs)
- 2 **ILUNGA MAKABU** WBC — Congo • 28-2-0 (25 KOs)
- 3 **LAWRENCE OKOLIE** WBO — U.K. • 17-0-0 (14 KOs)
- 4 **THABISO MCHUNU** — S. Africa • 23-5-0 (13 KOs)
- 5 **KEVIN LERENA** — S. Africa • 26-1-0 (13 KOs)
- 6 **KRZYSZTOF GLOWACKI** — Poland • 31-3-0 (19 KOs)
- 7 **ALEKSEI PAPIN** — Russia • 13-1-0 (12 KOs)
- 8 **MICHAL CIESLAK** — Poland • 21-1-0 (15 KOs)
- 9 **MATEUSZ MASTERNAK** — Poland • 46-5-0 (31 KOs)
- 10 **RYAD MERHY** — Belgium • 30-1-0 (25 KOs)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 175 POUNDS

- C **(VACANT)**
- 1 **ARTUR BETERBIEV** IBF, WBC — Russia • 16-0-0 (16 KOs)
- 2 **DMITRY BIVOL** WBA — Russia • 18-0-0 (11 KOs)
- 3 **JOE SMITH JR.** — U.S. • 27-3-0 (21 KOs)
- 4 **BADOU JACK** — Sweden • 24-3-3 (14 KOs)
- 5 **ELEIDER ALVAREZ** — Colombia • 25-2-0 (13 KOs)
- 6 **MARCUS BROWNE** — U.S. • 24-1-0 (16 KOs)
- 7 **MAXIM VLASOV** — Russia • 45-4-0 (26 KOs)
- 8 **LYNDON ARTHUR** — U.K. • 19-0-0 (13 KOs)
- 9 **GILBERTO RAMIREZ** — Mexico • 42-0-0 (28 KOs)
- 10 **CALLUM SMITH** — U.K. • 28-1-0 (20 KOs)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 168 POUNDS

- C **CANELO ALVAREZ** RING, IBF, WBA, WBC, WBO — Mexico • 57-1-2 (39 KOs)
- 1 **DAVID BENAVIDEZ** — U.S. • 25-0-0 (22 KOs)
- 2 **CALEB PLANT** — U.S. • 21-1-0 (12 KOs)
- 3 **BILLY JOE SAUNDERS** — U.K. • 30-1-0 (14 KOs)
- 4 **ANTHONY DIRRELL** — U.S. • 34-2-2 (25 KOs)
- 5 **JOHN RYDER** — U.K. • 30-5-0 (17 KOs)
- 6 **DAVID LEMIEUX** — Canada • 43-4-0 (36 KOs)
- 7 **DANIEL JACOBS** — U.S. • 37-3-0 (30 KOs)
- 8 **FEDOR CHUDINOV** — Russia • 25-2-1 (17 KOs)
- 9 **CARLOS GONGORA** — Ecuador • 20-0-0 (15 KOs)
- 10 **CHRISTIAN MBILLI** — France • 19-0-0 (18 KOs)

RATINGS

Through fights of Nov. 13, 2021

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 160 POUNDS

C **(VACANT)**
1 **GENNADIY GOLOVKIN** IBF
Kazakhstan • 41-1-1 (36 KOs)
2 **JERMALL CHARLO** WBC
U.S. • 32-0-0 (22 KOs)
3 **DEMETRIUS ANDRADE** WBO
U.S. • 30-0-0 (18 KOs)
4 **SERGIY DEREVYANCHENKO**
Ukraine • 13-3-0 (10 KOs)
5 **JAIME MUNGUIA**
Mexico • 38-0-0 (30 KOs)
6 **RYOTA MURATA** WBA
Japan • 16-2-0 (13 KOs)
7 **ZHANIBEK ALIMKHANULY**
Kazakhstan • 10-0-0 (6 KOs)
8 **CHRIS EUBANK JR.**
U.K. • 31-2-0 (23 KOs)
9 **LIAM WILLIAMS**
U.K. • 23-3-1 (18 KOs)
10 **FELIX CASH**
U.K. • 14-0-0 (10 KOs)

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 154 POUNDS

C **JERMELL CHARLO** RING, IBF, WBA, WBC
U.S. • 34-1-1 (18 KOs)
1 **BRIAN CASTANO** WBO
Argentina • 17-0-2 (12 KOs)
2 **JARRETT HURD**
U.S. • 24-2-0 (16 KOs)
3 **ERISLANDY LARA**
Cuba • 28-3-3 (16 KOs)
4 **ERICKSON LUBIN**
U.S. • 24-1-0 (17 KOs)
5 **TONY HARRISON**
U.S. • 28-3-1 (21 KOs)
6 **TIM TSZYU**
Australia • 19-0-0 (15 KOs)
7 **SEBASTIAN FUNDORA**
U.S. • 17-0-1 (12 KOs)
8 **MAGOMED KURBANOV**
Russia • 22-0-0 (13 KOs)
9 **CARLOS ADAMES**
Dom. Rep. • 20-1-0 (16 KOs)
10 **SERGIO GARCIA**
Spain • 33-0-0 (14 KOs)

WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 147 POUNDS

C **(VACANT)**
1 **ERROL SPENCE JR.** IBF, WBC
U.S. • 27-0-0 (21 KOs)
2 **TERENCE CRAWFORD** WBO
U.S. • 37-0-0 (28 KOs)
3 **YORDENIS UGAS** WBA
Cuba • 27-4-0 (12 KOs)
4 **SHAWN PORTER**
U.S. • 31-3-1 (17 KOs)
5 **JARON ENNIS**
U.S. • 28-0-0 (25 KOs)
6 **VERGIL ORTIZ JR.**
U.S. • 18-0-0 (18 KOs)
7 **DANNY GARCIA**
U.S. • 36-3-0 (21 KOs)
8 **KUDRATILLO ABDUKAKHOROV**
Uzbekistan • 18-0-0 (10 KOs)
9 **EIMANTAS STANIONIS**
Lithuania • 13-0-0 (9 KOs)
10 **DAVID AVANESYAN**
Russia • 28-3-1 (16 KOs)

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 140 POUNDS

C **JOSH TAYLOR** RING, IBF, WBA, WBC, WBO
U.K. • 18-0-0 (13 KOs)
1 **REGIS PROGRAIS**
U.S. • 26-1-0 (22 KOs)
2 **JOSE RAMIREZ**
U.S. • 26-1-0 (17 KOs)
3 **JOSE ZEPEDA**
U.S. • 35-2-0 (27 KOs)
4 **VIKTOR POSTOL**
Ukraine • 31-3-0 (12 KOs)
5 **ARNOLD BARBOZA**
U.S. • 26-0-0 (10 KOs)
6 **GERVONTA DAVIS**
U.S. • 25-0-0 (24 KOs)
7 **SUBRIEL MATIAS**
Puerto Rico • 17-1-0 (17 KOs)
8 **MARIO BARRIOS**
U.S. • 26-1-0 (17 KOs)
9 **SHOHJAHON ERGASHEV**
Uzbekistan • 20-0-0 (18 KOs)
10 **BATYR AKHMEDOV**
Russia • 9-1-0 (8 KOs)

Polish veteran Mateusz Masternak held onto his No. 9 cruiserweight ranking with a fourth-round stoppage of Armend Xhoxhaj.

David Benavidez, the No. 1-rated super middleweight, stayed busy with a seventh-round TKO of late-sub Kyrone Davis.

LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 135 POUNDS

C **TEOFIMO LOPEZ** RING, IBF, WBA, WBO
U.S. • 16-0-0 (12 KOs)
1 **VASILIY LOMACHENKO**
Ukraine • 15-2-0 (11 KOs)
2 **RYAN GARCIA**
U.S. • 21-0-0 (18 KOs)
3 **DEVIN HANEY** WBC
U.S. • 26-0-0 (15 KOs)
4 **RICHARD COMMEY**
Ghana • 30-3-0 (27 KOs)
5 **JOSEPH DIAZ JR.**
U.S. • 32-1-1 (15 KOs)
6 **JORGE LINARES**
Venezuela • 47-6-0 (29 KOs)
7 **JAVIER FORTUNA**
Dom. Rep. • 36-3-1 (25 KOs)
8 **GEORGE KAMBOSOS JR.**
Australia • 19-0-0 (10 KOs)
9 **ISAAC CRUZ**
Mexico • 22-1-1 (15 KOs)
10 **WILLIAM ZEPEDA**
Mexico • 24-0-0 (22 KOs)

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 130 POUNDS

C **(VACANT)**
1 **SHAKUR STEVENSON** WBO
U.S. • 17-0-0 (9 KOs)
2 **MIGUEL BERCHELT**
Mexico • 38-2-0 (34 KOs)
3 **JAMEL HERRING**
U.S. • 23-3-0 (11 KOs)
4 **SHAVKATDZHON RAKHIMOV**
Russia • 15-0-1 (12 KOs)
5 **CHRIS COLBERT**
U.S. • 16-0-0 (6 KOs)
6 **ROGER GUTIERREZ**
Venezuela • 26-3-1 (20 KOs)
7 **O'SHAQUIE FOSTER**
U.S. • 18-2-0 (11 KOs)
8 **XAVIER MARTINEZ**
U.S. • 17-0-0 (11 KOs)
9 **AZINGA FUZILE**
South Africa • 15-1-0 (9 KOs)
10 **ROBSON CONCEICAO**
Brazil • 16-1-0 (8 KOs)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 126 POUNDS

C **(VACANT)**
1 **EMANUEL NAVARRETE** WBO
Mexico • 35-1-0 (29 KOs)
2 **MAURICIO LARA**
Mexico • 23-2-1 (16 KOs)
3 **JOSH WARRINGTON**
U.K. • 30-1-1 (7 KOs)
4 **MARK MAGSAYO**
Phil. • 23-0-0 (16 KOs)
5 **KIKO MARTINEZ** IBF
Spain • 43-10-2 (30 KOs)
6 **LEIGH WOOD**
U.K. • 25-2-0 (15 KOs)
7 **KID GALAHAD**
U.K. • 28-2-0 (17 KOs)
7 **TUGSTSOGT NYAMBAYAR**
Mongolia • 12-2-0 (9 KOs)
8 **XU CAN**
China • 18-3-0 (3 KOs)
10 **JOET GONZALEZ**
U.S. • 24-2-0 (14 KOs)

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 122 POUNDS

C **(VACANT)**
1 **MURODJON AKHMADALIEV** IBF, WBA
Uzbekistan • 9-0-0 (7 KOs)
2 **DANIEL ROMAN**
U.S. • 29-3-1 (10 KOs)
3 **STEPHEN FULTON** WBO
U.S. • 19-0-0 (8 KOs)
4 **BRANDON FIGUEROA** WBC
U.S. • 22-0-1 (17 KOs)
5 **ANGELO LEO**
U.S. • 21-1-0 (9 KOs)
6 **HIROAKI TESHIGAWARA**
Japan • 22-2-2 (15 KOs)
7 **RAEESE ALEEM**
U.S. • 18-0-0 (12 KOs)
8 **AZAT HOVHANNISYAN**
Armenia • 20-3-0 (16 KOs)
9 **RONNY RIOS**
U.S. • 33-3-0 (16 KOs)
10 **RYOSUKE IWASA**
Japan • 27-4-0 (17 KOs)

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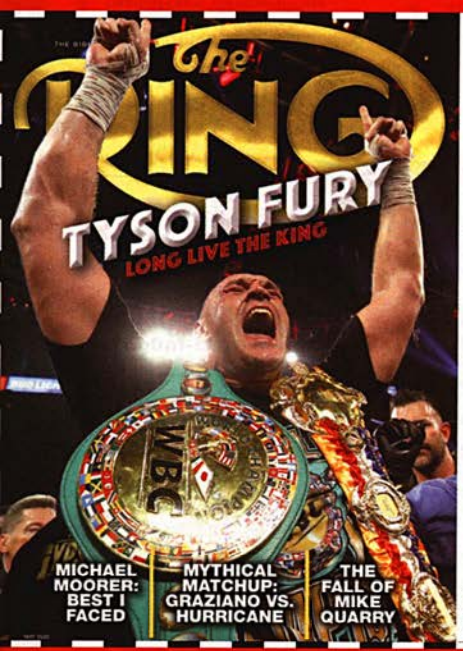

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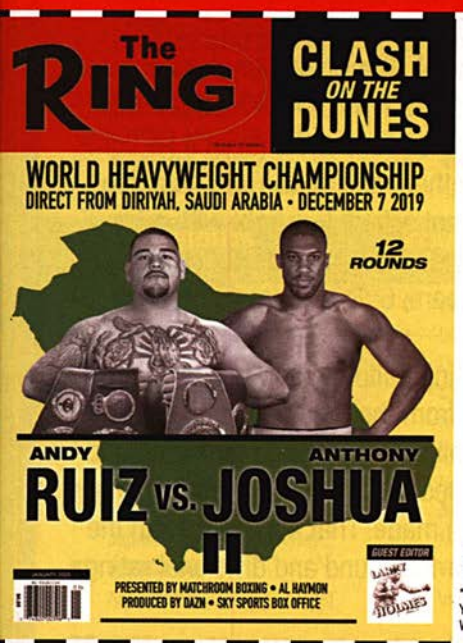

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RATINGS

Through fights of Nov. 13, 2021

BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 118 POUNDS

- **C** **NAOYA INOUE** RING, IBF, WBA
  Japan • 21-0-0 (18 KOs)
- **1** **NONITO DONAIRE** WBC
  Phil. • 41-6-0 (27 KOs)
- **2** **JOHN RIEL CASIMERO** WBO
  Phil. • 31-4-0 (21 KOs)
- **3** **EMMANUEL RODRIGUEZ**
  Puerto Rico • 19-2-0 (12 KOs)
- **4** **NORDINE OUBAALI**
  France • 17-1-0 (12 KOs)
- **5** **JASON MOLONEY**
  Australia • 22-2-0 (18 KOs)
- **6** **TAKUMA INOUE**
  Japan • 15-1-0 (3 KOs)
- **7** **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX**
  Cuba • 20-2-0 (13 KOs)
- **8** **RAU'SHEE WARREN**
  U.S. • 19-3-0 (5 KOs)
- **9** **GARY ANTONIO RUSSELL**
  U.S. • 18-0-0 (12 KOs)
- **10** **LEE MCGREGOR**
  U.K. • 11-0-0 (9 KOs)

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 115 POUNDS

- **C** **JUAN FRANCISCO ESTRADA** RING, WBA, WBC
  Mexico • 42-3-0 (28 KOs)
- **1** **SRISAKET SOR RUNGVISAI**
  Thailand • 50-5-1 (43 KOs)
- **2** **ROMAN GONZALEZ**
  Nicaragua • 50-3-0 (41 KOs)
- **3** **KAZUTO IOKA** WBO
  Japan • 27-2-0 (15 KOs)
- **4** **JERWIN ANCAJAS** IBF
  Phil. • 33-1-2 (22 KOs)
- **5** **JOSHUA FRANCO**
  U.S. • 18-1-2 (8 KOs)
- **6** **CARLOS CUADRAS**
  Mexico • 39-4-1 (27 KOs)
- **7** **FRANCISCO RODRIGUEZ JR.**
  Mexico • 34-5-1 (24 KOs)
- **8** **DONNIE NIETES**
  Phil. • 43-1-5 (23 KOs)
- **9** **ANDREW MOLONEY**
  Australia • 21-2-0 (14 KOs)
- **10** **PEDRO GUEVARA**
  Mexico • 38-3-1 (22 KOs)

FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 112 POUNDS

- **C** **(VACANT)**
- **1** **JULIO CESAR MARTINEZ** WBC
  Mexico • 18-1-0 (14 KOs)
- **2** **JUNTO NAKATANI** WBO
  Japan • 22-0-0 (17 KOs)
- **3** **SUNNY EDWARDS** IBF
  U.K. • 16-0-0 (4 KOs)
- **4** **ARTEM DALAKIAN** WBA
  Ukraine • 20-0-0 (14 KOs)
- **5** **MORUTI MTHALANE**
  S. Africa • 39-3-0 (26 KOs)
- **6** **RICARDO SANDOVAL**
  U.S. • 19-1-0 (14 KOs)
- **7** **CRISTOFER ROSALES**
  Nicaragua • 31-5-0 (21 KOs)
- **8** **MCWILLIAMS ARROYO**
  Puerto Rico • 21-4-0 (16 KOs)
- **9** **JACKSON CHAUKE**
  S. Africa • 20-1-1 (14 KOs)
- **10** **RYOTA YAMAUCHI**
  Japan • 8-1-0 (7 KOs)

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 108 POUNDS

- **C** **HIROTO KYOGUCHI** RING, WBA
  Japan • 15-0-0 (10 KOs)
- **1** **FELIX ALVARADO** IBF
  Nicaragua • 37-2-0 (32 KOs)
- **2** **MASAMICHI YABUKI** WBC
  Japan • 13-3-0 (12 KOs)
- **3** **KENSHIRO TERAJI**
  Japan • 18-1-0 (10 KOs)
- **4** **JONATHAN GONZALEZ** WBO
  Puerto Rico • 25-3-1 (14 KOs)
- **5** **JESSE RODRIGUEZ**
  U.S. • 14-0-0 (10 KOs)
- **6** **ELWIN SOTO**
  Mexico • 19-2-0 (13 KOs)
- **7** **HEKKIE BUDLER**
  S. Africa • 33-4-0 (10 KOs)
- **8** **AGUSTIN GAUTO**
  Argentina • 17-0-0 (12 KOs)
- **9** **ESTEBAN BERMUDEZ**
  Mexico • 14-3-2 (10 KOs)
- **10** **DANIEL MATELLON**
  Cuba • 12-0-2 (6 KOs)

Former titleholder Anthony Dirrell showed he's still a player in the 168-pound division with a dramatic stoppage of Marcos Hernandez.

Jaime Munguia advanced a spot in the middleweight rankings with a hard-fought unanimous decision over veteran Gabe Rosado.

STRAWWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 105 POUNDS

- **C** **(VACANT)**
- **1** **KNOCKOUT CP FRESHMART** WBA
  Thailand • 22-0-0 (8 KOs)
- **2** **PETCHMANEE CP FRESHMART** WBC
  Thailand • 37-1-0 (23 KOs)
- **3** **WANHENG MENAYOTHIN**
  Thailand • 55-1-0 (19 KOs)
- **4** **WILFREDO MENDEZ** WBO
  Puerto Rico • 16-1-0 (6 KOs)
- **5** **VIC SALUDAR**
  Phil. • 21-4-0 (11 KOs)
- **6** **RENE MARK CUARTO** IBF
  Phil. • 19-2-2 (11 KOs)
- **7** **PEDRO TADURAN**
  Phil. • 14-3-1 (11 KOs)
- **8** **MASATAKA TANIGUCHI**
  Japan • 14-3-0 (9 KOs)
- **9** **GINJIRO SHIGEOKA**
  Japan • 6-0-0 (5 KOs)
- **10** **YUDAI SHIGEOKA**
  Japan • 4-0-0 (2 KOs)

HOW OUR RATINGS ARE COMPILED
RECORDS PROVIDED BY BOXREC.COM

Championship vacancies can be filled in the following two ways: 1. The Ring's Nos. 1 and 2 contenders fight one another. 2. If the Nos. 1 and 2 contenders choose not to fight one another and No. 1 fights No. 3, that matchup could be for the Ring title if the Editorial Board deems No. 3 worthy.

A champion can lose his belt in six situations: 1. The Champion loses a fight in the weight class in which he is champion; 2. The Champion moves to another weight class; 3. The Champion does not schedule a fight in any weight class for 18 months, although injuries and certain other unforeseen circumstances could be taken into consideration; 4. The Champion does not schedule a fight at his championship weight for 18 months (even if he fights at another weight); 5. The Champion does not schedule a fight with a Top-5 contender from any weight class for two years; 6. The Champion retires.

The Ring Editorial Board considers input from the Ratings Panel of boxing journalists from around the world and then decides collectively what changes will be made. That applies to both the pound-for-pound and divisional ratings.

WOMEN'S RATINGS

Through fights of Nov. 13, 2021

POUND FOR POUND

1 **KATIE TAYLOR**
Ireland • 19-0-0 (6 KOs)

2 **CLARESSA SHIELDS**
U.S. • 11-0-0 (2 KOs)

3 **AMANDA SERRANO**
Puerto Rico • 41-1-1 (30 KOs)

4 **JESSICA MCCASKILL**
U.S. • 10-2-0 (3 KOs)

5 **DELFINE PERSOON**
Belgium • 46-3-0 (19 KOs)

6 **CHANTELLE CAMERON**
U.K. • 15-0-0 (8 KOs)

7 **MIKAELA MAYER**
U.S. • 16-0-0 (5 KOs)

8 **CECILIA BRAEKHUS**
Norway • 36-2-0 (9 KOs

9 **SENIESA ESTRADA**
U.S. • 21-0-0 (8 KOs)

10 **SAVANNAH MARSHALL**
U.K. • 11-0-0 (9 KOs)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 168 POUNDS

C **(VACANT)**
1 **ELIN CEDERROOS** IBF, WBA
Sweden • 8-0-0 (4 KOs)
2 **FRANCHON CREWS-DEZURN** WBC, WBO
U.S. • 7-1-0 (2 KOs)
3 **EMA KOZIN**
Slovenia • 21-0-1 (11 KOs)
4 **CHRISTINA HAMMER**
Germany • 26-1-0 (12 KOs)
5 **SHADASIA GREEN**
U.S. • 8-0-0 (7 KOs)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 160 POUNDS

C **CLARESSA SHIELDS** RING, IBF, WBA, WBC, WBO
U.S. • 11-0-0 (2 KOs)
1 **SAVANNAH MARSHALL**
U.K. • 11-0-0 (9 KOs)
2 **CHRISTINA HAMMER**
Germany • 26-1-0 (12 KOs)
3 **EMA KOZIN**
Slovenia • 21-0-1 (11 KOs)
4 **FEMKE HERMANS**
Belgium • 12-3-0 (5 KOs)
5 **ALMA IBARRA**
Mexico • 9-1-0 (4 KOs)

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 154 POUNDS

C **CLARESSA SHIELDS** RING, WBC, WBO, IBF
U.S. • 11-0-0 (2 KOs)
1 **MARIE EVE DICAIRE**
Canada • 17-1-0 (0 KOs)
2 **HANNAH RANKIN**
U.K. • 11-5-0 (2 KOs)
3 **CHRIS NAMUS**
Uruguay • 25-6-0 (8 KOs)
4 **CYNTHIA LOZANO**
Mexico • 9-0-0 (7 KOs)
5 **AIDYL CARDENAS**
U.S. • 4-0-0 (1 KOs)

WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 147 POUNDS

C **JESSICA MCCASKILL** RING, IBF, WBA, WBC, WBO
U.S. • 10-2-0 (3 KOs)
1 **CECILIA BRAEKHUS**
Norway • 36-2-0 (9 KOs)
2 **LAYLA MCCARTER**
U.S. • 44-13-5 (11 KOs)
3 **VICTORIA BUSTOS**
Argentina • 22-6-0 (0 KOs)
4 **LOLITA MUZEYA**
Zambia • 16-1-0 (8 KOs)
5 **EWA PIATKOWSKA**
Poland • 16-1-0 (4 KOs)

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 140 POUNDS

C **CHANTELLE CAMERON** RING, IBF, WBC
U.K. • 15-0-0 (8 KOs)
1 **ERICA FARIAS**
Argentina • 26-5-0 (10 KOs)
2 **MARY MCGEE**
U.S. • 27-4-0 (15 KOs)
3 **KALI REIS** WBA
U.S. • 18-7-1 (5 KOs)
4 **ANAHI SANCHEZ**
Argentina • 20-5-0 (12 KOs)
5 **JESSICA CAMARA**
Canada • 8-2-0 (0 KOs)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 135 POUNDS

C **KATIE TAYLOR** RING, IBF, WBA, WBC, WBO
Ireland • 19-0-0 (6 KOs)
1 **DELFINE PERSOON**
Belgium • 46-3-0 (19 KOs)
2 **ESTELLE MOSSELY**
Belgium • 9-0-0 (1 KOs)
3 **MIRIAM GUTIERREZ**
Spain • 14-1-0 (5 KOs)
4 **NATASHA JONAS**
U.K. • 9-2-1 (7 KOs)
5 **JENNIFER HAN**
U.S. • 18-4-1 (18 KOs)

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 130 POUNDS

C **MIKAELA MAYER** RING, WBC, WBO
U.S. • 16-0-0 (5 KOs)
1 **DELFINE PERSOON**
Belgium • 46-3-0 (19 KOs)
2 **ALYCIA BAUMGARDNER**
U.S. • 11-1-0 (7 KOs)
3 **MAIVA HAMADOUCHE** IBF
France • 22-2-0 (18 KOs)
4 **HYUN MI CHOI** WBA
South Korea • 19-0-1 (5 KOs)
5 **TERRI HARPER**
U.K. • 11-1-1 (6 KOs)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 126 POUNDS

C **(VACANT)**
1 **AMANDA SERRANO** WBC, WBO
Puerto Rico • 41-1-1 (30 KOs)
2 **SARAH MAHFOUD**
Denmark • 10-0-0 (3 KOs)
3 **ERIKA CRUZ HERNANDEZ** WBA
Mexico • 13-1-0 (3 KOs)
4 **JELENA MRDJENOVICH**
Canada • 41-11-2 (19 KOs)
5 **NINA MEINKE**
Germany • 12-2-0 (3 KOs)

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 122 POUNDS

C **(VACANT)**
1 **JACKIE NAVA**
Mexico • 39-4-4 (16 KOs)
2 **DINA THORSLUND** WBO
Denmark • 17-0-0 (7 KOs)
3 **YAMILETH MERCADO** WBC
Mexico • 18-3-0 (5 KOs)
4 **SEGOLENE LEFEBVRE**
France • 14-0-0 (1 KOs)
5 **MARIANA JUAREZ**
Mexico • 55-11-4 (19 KOs)

BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 118 POUNDS

C **(VACANT)**
1 **DINA THORSLUND** WBO
Denmark • 17-0-0 (7 KOs)
2 **YULIHAN LUNA AVILA** WBC
Mexico • 22-3-1 (4 KOs)
3 **MARIANA JUAREZ**
Mexico • 55-10-4 (19 KOs)
4 **ZULINA MUNOZ**
Mexico • 53-4-2 (30 KOs)
5 **MARIA CECILIA ROMAN** IBF
Argentina • 15-5-1 (0 KOs)

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 115 POUNDS

C **(VACANT)**
1 **LOURDES JUAREZ** WBC
Mexico • 33-2-0 (4 KOs)
2 **GUADALUPE MARTINEZ**
Mexico • 20-10-0 (6 KOs)
3 **YESSICA CHAVEZ**
Mexico • 32-5-3 (4 KOs)
4 **DIANA FERNANDEZ**
Mexico • 24-4-1 (4 KOs)
5 **ADELAIDA RUIZ**
U.S. • 10-0-1 (5 KOs)

FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 112 POUNDS

C **(VACANT)**
1 **NAOKO FUJIOKA** WBA
Japan • 19-2-1 (7 KOs)
2 **ARELY MUCINO** WBO
Mexico • 30-3-2 (10 KOs)
3 **MARLEN ESPARZA**
U.S. • 10-1-0 (1 KOs) WBC
4 **IBETH ZAMORA**
Mexico • 32-7-0 (12 KOs)
5 **JESSICA NERY PLATA**
Mexico • 27-2-0 (3 KOs)

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 108 POUNDS

C **(VACANT)**
1 **SENIESA ESTRADA** WBO
U.S. • 21-0-0 (8 KOs)
2 **EVELYN BERMUDEZ** IBF
Argentina • 14-0-1 (4 KOs)
3 **KIM CLAVEL**
Canada • 14-0-0 (2 KOs)
4 **TSUNAMI TENKAI**
Japan • 28-13-1 (16 KOs)
5 **YESICA BOPP**
Argentina • 37-2-0 (17 KOs)

STRAWWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 105 POUNDS

C **(VACANT)**
1 **SENIESA ESTRADA** WBA
U.S. • 21-0-0 (8 KOs)
2 **CHRISTINA RUPPRECHT** WBC
Germany • 11-0-1 (3 KOs)
3 **YOKASTA VALLE** IBF
Nicaragua • 22-2-0 (9 KOs)
4 **ANABEL ORTIZ**
Mexico • 31-4-0 (4 KOs)
5 **THI THU NHI NGUYEN** WBO
Vietnam • 5-0-0 (1 KO)

ATOMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 102 POUNDS

C **(VACANT)**
1 **MONSERRAT ALARCON** WBA
Mexico • 16-4-2 (0 KOs)
2 **FABIANA BYTYQI** WBC
Czech Rep. • 18-0-1 (5 KOs)
3 **MIKA IWAKAWA** WBO
Japan • 10-5-1 (3 KOs)
4 **ERI MATSUDA**
Japan • 4-0-1 (1 KO)
5 **YENIFER LEON**
Venezuela • 13-4-0 (9 KOs)

MY PLACE IN THE LINEAGE

STEVE FARHOOD TOOK THE EDITORIAL HELM OF RING MAGAZINE AT THE HEIGHT OF TYSON-MANIA, JUST IN TIME TO CHRONICLE THE SENSATIONAL FIGHTS AND RISING STARS OF THE NINETIES

By **Steve Farhood**

It wasn't until several years after I became editor of The Ring that I fully realized the magazine's significance.

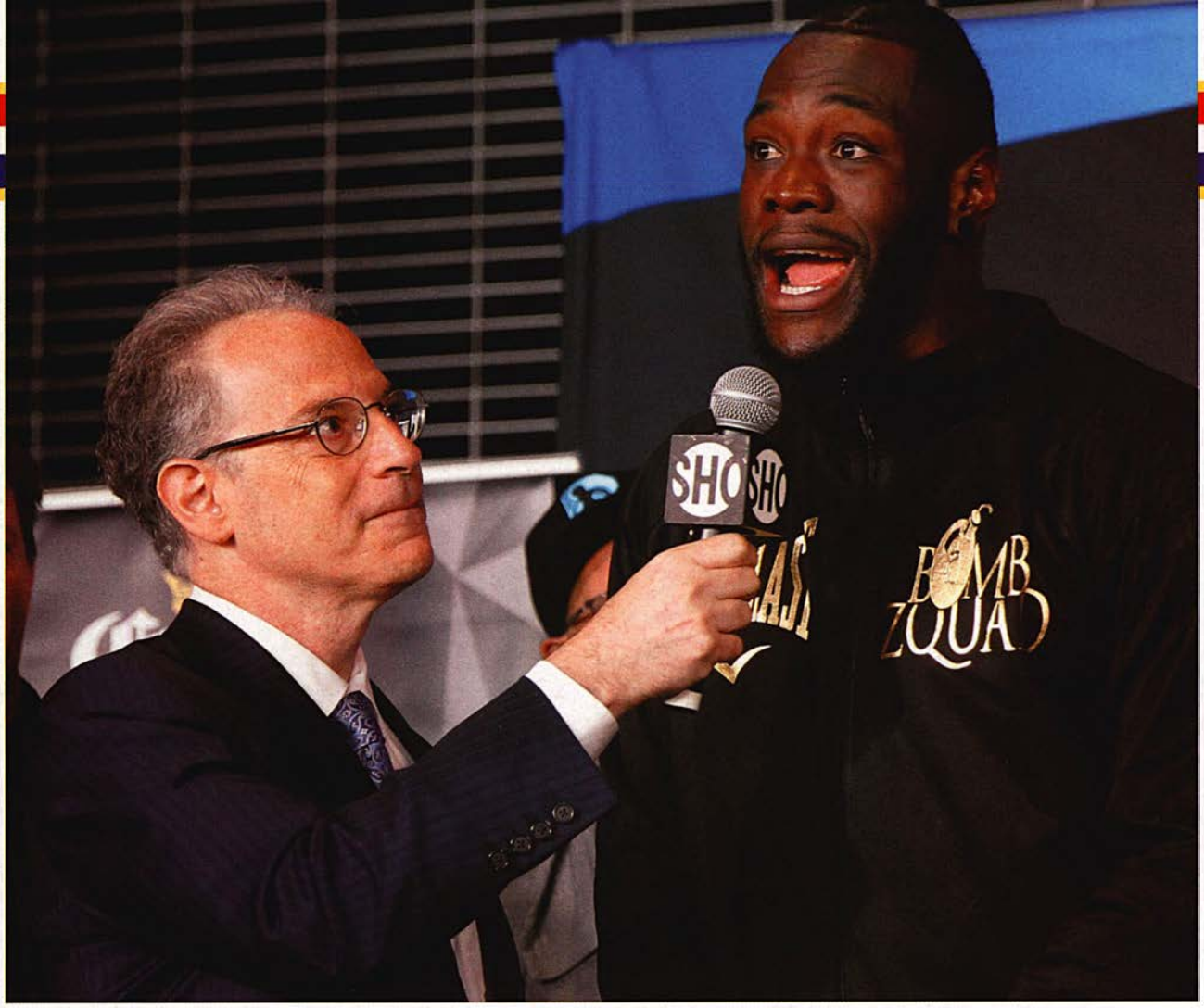
The Ring was an answer on *Jeopardy!*

In 1989, the venerable magazine was already 67 years old when then-publisher Stanley Weston asked me to be editor. I was 32. Ten years before, Weston and I had launched the upstart KO Magazine, which had traded blows with The Ring and firmly established itself in the marketplace.

Now I was sliding over to head what had previously been the competition.

Plagued by financial woes, The Ring was barely breathing when Weston's company, London Publishing,

Farhood presents Riddick Bowe with his 1992 Fighter of the Year belt.



Deontay Wilder is quizzed by Farhood, who now serves the sport as a TV analyst.

surprised the industry by purchasing the title from former NBA great Dave DeBusschere and his partners. For months, it had been presumed that Dr. Jerry Buss, the owner of the Los Angeles Lakers and a big boxing fan and promoter, was going to save the struggling monthly.

But Weston and his right-hand man, Ken Gudaitis (who more than 30 years later remains with the magazine), swooped in and beat Buss to the trigger.

And that is why failed point guard Steve Farhood, and not Magic Johnson, became editor of The Ring.

During my eight years at the helm, first in Rockville Centre, New York, and then (after Weston sold the company) Ambler, Pennsylvania, boxing gave us plenty to report and write about. There were fights like Chavez-Taylor I, Douglas-Tyson, Whitaker-Chavez, Bowe-Holyfield I, Holyfield-Tyson I and II, and Benn-McClellan.

There were fighters like Terry Norris, Roy Jones Jr., Felix Trinidad, Julian Jackson, Ricardo Lopez, Marco Antonio Barrera, Kostya Tszyu, James Toney, Arturo Gatti, Michael Nunn, and Oscar De La Hoya.

And did I mention there was Mike Tyson?

During my tenure, I was fortunate enough to work with two outstanding journalists, publisher Stu Saks and managing editor Nigel Collins, who was my predecessor and in 1997 would become my successor.

In his second run, Collins raised The Ring to new heights.

The first editor, of course, was Nat Fleischer, who founded the magazine in 1922. At first, he meant The Ring to be nothing more than a New York City fight newsletter. The first issue was 24 pages and sold for 20 cents.

My first issue as editor, dated January 1990, was 80 pages and sold for $2.50.

When I first became editor, among my biggest thrills was scouring the massive file cabinets overstuffed with photos and clips and finding notes scribbled 50 years before by Fleischer.

Fleischer lived to be 84. He was the Connie Mack of publishers, heading The Ring for 50 years.

Today, The Ring is in good hands. As editor Doug Fischer celebrates the magazine's 100th birthday with this issue, I think back to 1997, when we celebrated the 75th anniversary with a star-studded gala in Atlantic City that was televised by Showtime.

Shortly after leaving The Ring, I transitioned from print journalism to television. But all these years later, The Ring remains a part of me, and I'd like to think that I remain a small part of it as well.

TO BE THE BEST

FOR 97 OF ITS 100 YEARS, THE RING HAS RANKED THE TOP FIGHTERS IN THE GAME – HERE, THROUGH THE LENS OF THOSE LISTS, WE LOOK BACK AT THE 100 MEN WHO PERSONIFIED THE PHRASE "TO BE THE BEST, YOU HAVE TO BEAT THE BEST"

By **Cliff Rold**

This is not a ranking of the 100 best fighters in a century of The Ring Magazine.

Plenty will read it that way, skimming right past this and diving in to let the debates begin. Most of the fighters one would expect to see on such a list are here, so a little misunderstanding is inevitable.

For those who take a moment to understand what this is, versus what it's not, there should be plenty to enjoy and it will alleviate some reader anxiety (No Sandy Saddler?! Where is George Foreman?!). This is a study of fighter performance using The Ring's ratings – from the divisional rankings' debut within the pages of the February 1925 issue to today – as the central gauge.

Several years ago, research began on a project for The Ring's centennial. The idea was to treat the rankings almost like seeds in a never-ending tournament. On the occasion of The Ring's 100th birthday, what can those rankings tell us about who beat whom and when they beat them?

Tex Rickard was a pioneer in terms of boxing promotion and orchestrated the first million-dollar gate.

The Ring has published top 10 divisional rankings for 97 years. Using a formula focused on where an opponent was ranked in the print issue prior to a specific fight, and based on official outcomes, these are the top 100 fighters calculated by their performances vs. Ring-rated opposition.

Let's start at the beginning.

While honorary Ring Magazine championship belts have been around since 1922, the idea of ranking the best of each weight class didn't come to fruition until the February 1925 issue. The header read, "Boxers of the World Ranked in 1924 by 'Tex' Rickard," with the subheader "Famous Promoter Issues First List of Its Kind – Gives Dempsey and Leonard Only Complimentary Rating."

Editor Nat Fleischer introduced the rankings in nine divisions, writing, "It is the privilege of The Ring to present to the boxing followers of the world 'Tex' Rickard's ranking of ring performers for the year. Coming from the leading promoter in the sport and the impresario at Madison Square Garden in New York, the tabulation and the accompanying article are of unusual importance and vital interest. It is the intention of Mr. Rickard to make the ranking an annual feature ... on a relative parity with Walter Camp's All America team."

Annual ratings would appear in The Ring's February issue until moving to the March issue in 1965. The final annual appeared in the May 1987 edition. Contributor Eddie Borden added monthly rankings for the first time in the March 1928 edition, writing, "The publisher has decided to devote one page each month ... to a rating

of the ten leading boxers in each division for that month. In the rating, which will be in charge of the writer, the champion will be listed first in deference to his position."

Borden's first monthly rankings consisted of 10 weight classes. The October 1929 issue separated champions from the top 10 for the first time. Every February issue until 1942 included an additional "annual" list, which then became the only rankings to appear in the year-end issue (which eventually moved to March) until 1981. After that, the annual issue again included both lists.

Under new management, The Ring opted to drop the "champion" designation and rate just 10 fighters in each division in the January 1990 issue. Editor-in-chief Steve Farhood provided the rationale in the May 1990 issue's Ringside column. "In a perfect boxing world, there would be one champion per division. But there isn't one champion per division, and whether you accept the WBC, WBA, and IBF, or dismiss them as self-serving sanctioning bodies, the question of who deserves to be the *real* champion, and who doesn't, are no longer simple ones." Farhood later added the philosophy going forward would be focused on "Who is the *better* fighter. What's the point of rating one fighter the *world champion* if he's not the best in the division?"

The classic standard returned in the April 2002 edition. Editor-in-chief Nigel Collins wrote, "This new policy is not intended to discount the accomplishments of the alphabet titlists, many of whom are outstanding fighters. It is, rather, a way to differentiate between a fighter who holds a 'title' and an authentic world champion." A notable change since Collins' championship policy reinstatement are rules in place to allow The Ring to remove championship recognition under specific circumstances.

Currently, The Ring recognizes 17 weight classes. Heavyweight, light heavyweight, middleweight, welterweight, lightweight, featherweight, bantamweight and flyweight have been in every set of rankings since February 1925. The years for the others are:

- **Cruiserweight** (April 1984-June 1987; January 1990-present)
- **Super middleweight** (January 1990-present)
- **Junior middleweight** (December 1974-June 1987; January 1990-present)
- **Junior welterweight** (February 1928-October 1932; September 1962-June 1987; January 1990-present)
- **Junior lightweight** (February 1925-October 1932; September 1962-June 1987; January 1990-present)
- **Junior featherweight** (May 1979-June 1987; January 1990-present)
- **Junior bantamweight** (January 1990-present)
- **Junior flyweight** (September 1991-present)
- **Strawweight** (January 1999-present)

The first task in evaluating a century of rankings was assembling all of them. Thanks go to the International Boxing Research Organization, especially Gary Luscombe for his assistance on several issues from the 1920s and early 1930s. Thanks also to all who maintain records on BoxRec.com, the primary source for fighter information. Rankings were compiled in a database through the January 2022 edition and fight results are current to November 6, 2021.

Fighters who won a Ring championship (which, historians will note, usually but not always lines up with historical lineage) or primary NBA/WBA, WBC, IBF or WBO titles were identified along with every inductee to the International Boxing Hall of Fame and the defunct Ring and World Boxing halls of fame, plus everyone currently on the IBHOF ballot through October 2021, generating a pool of over 1,400 fighters to evaluate. Fifty-seven were removed in the final evaluation, having never achieved a top 10 Ring ranking and/or a result against a Ring-rated fighter.

Early on, a sample comparing some fighters from older, higher-activity eras and recent top names was used to test the points method applied. If there was no way to reasonably compare a Tony Canzoneri to a Manny Pacquiao, the approach taken might have been quite different. The final results here illustrate that a comparison can be made with a cross section of every generation of The Ring's long history.

This is not a review of full careers, though career records are supplied for purposes of comparison. The study was scaled from a fighter's first to last appearance in The Ring's divisional rankings. All relevant results correlating to those dates/issues were fair game. Results outside those dates were not. Typically, The Ring's monthly rankings carry an "as of" date roughly two to six months behind the cover date. Those dates helped to ensure accuracy against the date of fights.

Interested readers can find details about the points formula used to evaluate the fighters in this top 100 after the rankings. The essentials are:

- **Points for wins and losses derived from a base 11-point scale.**
- **Points for wins and losses were tracked and ranked two ways:**
  - Overall total points
  - Peak points (the highest point a score ever reached)
  - **Note:** Wins and losses to opponents in higher and lower divisions were included with an adjustment.
- **Total wins against ranked opponents between a fighter's first and last Ring ranking were tracked as a separate category. Fighters were ranked against each other there as well.**

All divisional top tens and eras were treated equally. An obvious argument is not all champions or number-one contenders are equal. The study doesn't make any qualitative

distinction. Scores are based on the rankings and results alone, using the principle that no one can fight beyond the top tens of their time. This study reflects success relative to era.

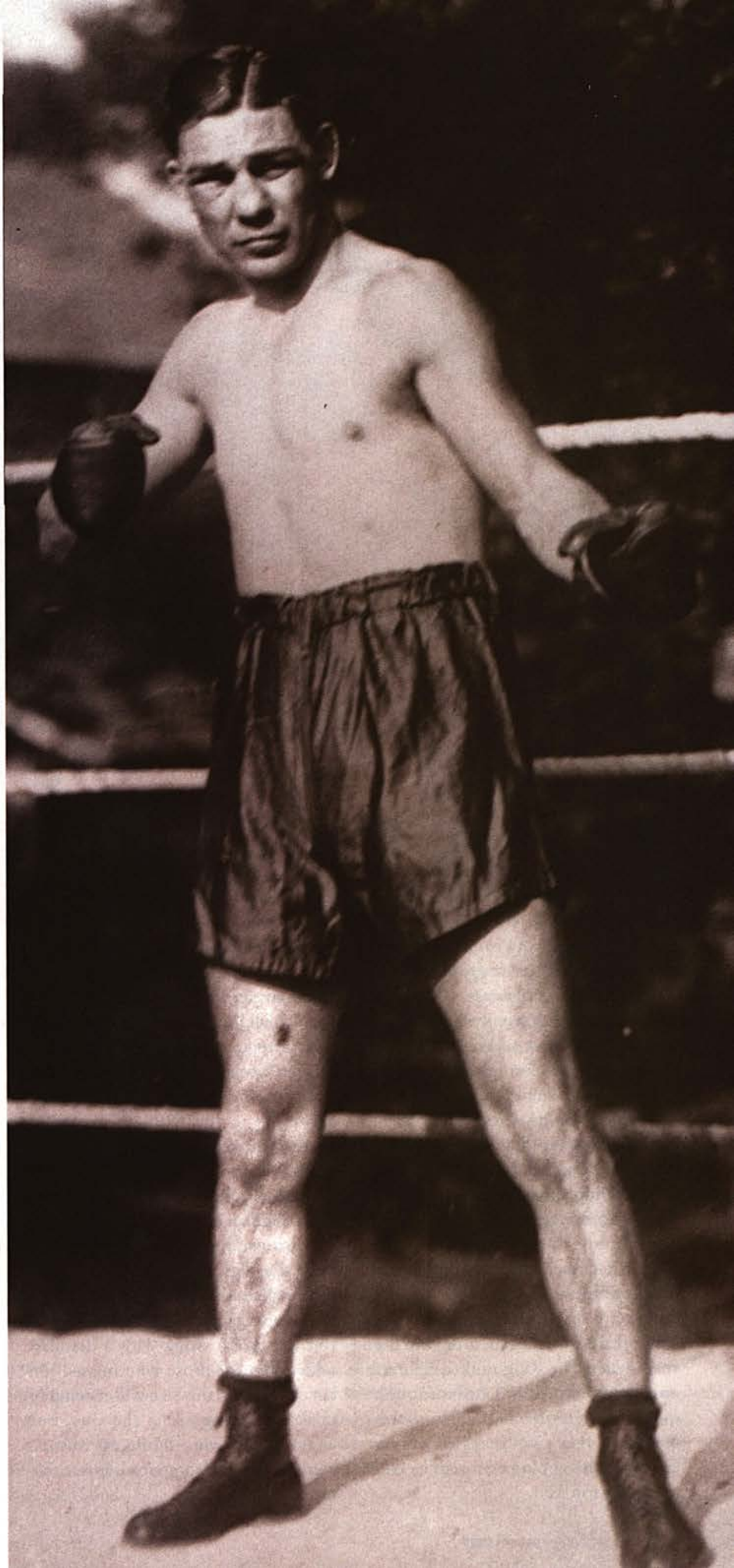
The "No Decision" era in boxing provided some storied contests without official verdicts. No points were awarded even where prominent unofficial "newspaper decisions" are available. Those fights, when against ranked opponents, are included. Study results are based only on official outcomes.

Official outcomes also meant accepting historically reviled decisions and the rankings during the era when associate editor John Ort was accused of bribe-related rankings manipulation in relation to the United States boxing championship tournament in the 1970s. No attempt is made to relitigate or editorialize results, though many controversies are described.

The Ring rankings throughout their history weren't perfect or always correct. They are, though, by and large, a strong snapshot of what was happening in the squared circle in their time.

There was one major cheat applied. For a period between 1987 and 1989, Ring ceased recognition of five weight divisions. KO Magazine was used as a supplement to better capture the full breadth of those two years, particularly in the "junior" weight classes. Ring rankings remained the first option.

Why apply a supplement? The decision to cease recognition of junior welterweight and junior lightweight in 1932 reflected the reality of the sport at the time. While nobly intended, the decision in 1987 to recognize only the "original eight" weight classes did not. Even The Ring's debut rankings in 1925 featured nine weight classes. Over 97 years of Ring rankings, original-eight exclusive rankings were the norm for



A prime version of middleweight and pound-for-pound all-time great Harry Greb in 1925.

Mexican strawweight great Ricardo Lopez missed out on inclusion due to a technicality.

only approximately 32 years.

Why KO and not other prominent publications? In 1989, Stanley Weston purchased The Ring and added it to a body of magazines that then included KO most prominently. The rankings in the January 1989 issues of The Ring and KO largely mirror each other, though KO ranked a top 12 in each weight class versus just 10 in The Ring with some differences in editorial management. It was close enough to an organic transition for use here.

Another small cheat, used sparingly, was for occasions where a loss to an unranked fighter was based purely on a policy technicality. The third fight between Jimmy McLarnin and Barney Ross is an example.

Some big names are missing or fragmented. Jack Dempsey and Benny Leonard led their classes in 1925, but their active careers were nearly over. The study is focused only on the years when The Ring ranked fighters and those two didn't have enough quality activity from 1924 forward. Only the last two years of Harry Greb's career could be scored; he still made the top 100.

Others just didn't perform well enough against the rankings or have enough results. Ricardo Lopez was a staple of The Ring's pound-for-pound top 10 throughout the 1990s, but strawweight wasn't included in the magazine until 1999. Earlier years of The Ring combined divisions like junior middleweight and middleweight when The Ring didn't rank the lighter class separately. That also affects outcomes but at least creates scoring options. The Ring did not combine strawweight and junior flyweight in the 1990s, so most of Lopez's career wasn't scorable.

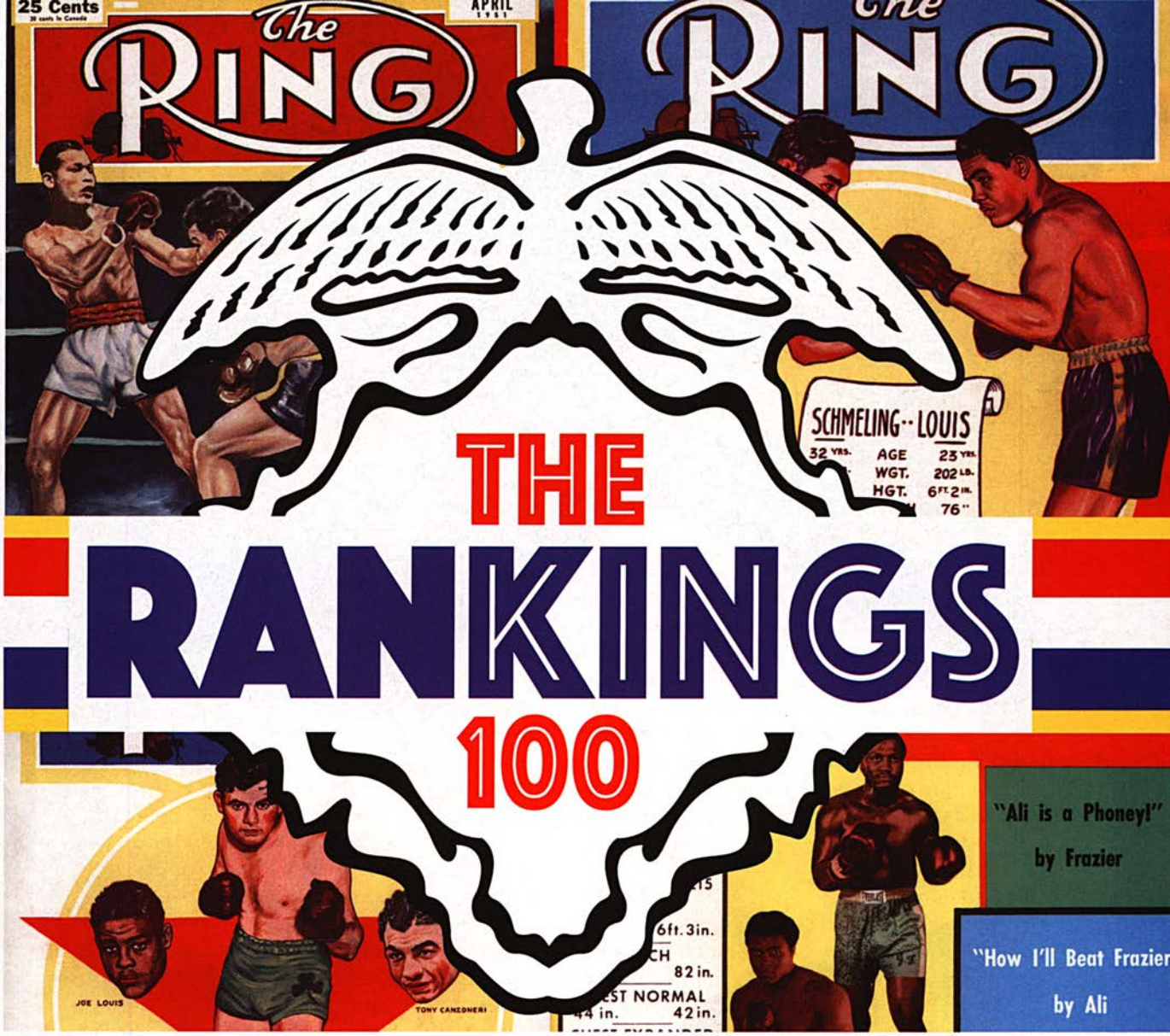
This issue provides a detailed top 25, including the ranking of each fighter in the three scoring categories, along with a list of the next 75 fighters in the top 100. Detailed results for the remaining 75 will appear online at RingTV.com (bit.ly/ring75) along with a detailed addendum for those who missed the cut. A study of this size will inevitably miss something along the way, but every effort was made to ensure complete and accurate results for this top 100.

The legend for the scoring results section is: Opponent and result – (opponent ranking) – opponent weight class – Cover date for the issue with the opponent's ranking. The use of +/- next to some opponent rankings denotes the opponent was ranked above or below the weight class of the fighter being examined in that issue. Two + signs would mean they were facing someone two weight classes up based on how many divisions The Ring ranked at the time. An asterisk is used to note a Ring championship title change or a vacancy being filled.

Again, this is not a ranking of the 100 best fighters in The Ring Magazine's history.

It is a celebration of those who took the time to try to make sense of the sometimes chaotic world of boxing, month after month, for all these years.

Happy birthday, Ring Magazine. Here's to 100 more.



NOTE: With some fighters of the more-distant past, there is often disagreement about their final records. We have used BoxRec.com as our source.

SCORING RESULTS KEY:

Most of the fighters listed in the Scoring Results section were in The Ring's ratings at the time the examined ranked fighters of this feature faced them. The number in parentheses after the name and result is the ranking of the opponent at the time of their bout, followed by the opponent's weight class (denoted by the division's weight limit) and the cover date for the issue with the opponent's ranking just before his bout with the examined fighter.

The first example from the Sugar Ray Robinson section:

Sammy Angott UD10 - (1) - 135 - 09/41

Opponent's name and fight result - (Ring ranking at the time of the bout) - weight class - cover date

In other words, Angott was The Ring's No. 1-rated lightweight, as of the September 1941 issue, when Robinson beat him by unanimous decision in a lightweight bout.

A plus symbol "+" next to an opponent's ranking means he was ranked in the weight class above the fighter being examined. Two "+" signs mean the examined fighter faced an opponent two weight classes heavier (based on the divisions The Ring ranked at the time).

EXAMPLE:

Jake LaMotta UD10 - (10+) - 160 - 11/42

So, LaMotta was The Ring's No. 10-rated middleweight as of the November 1942 issue when Robinson, who was rated at welterweight, faced him in a middleweight bout and won by unanimous decision.

A minus symbol "-" next to an opponent's ranking denotes the opponent was ranked below the weight class of the fighter being examined in that issue.

An asterisk "*" is used to note a Ring championship title change or a vacancy being filled.

Results placed between brackets [ ] denote fights that were covered in the same issue – an interesting detail that shows how often some of the earlier fighters were in action. Fights in italics denote results using rankings taken from KO Magazine. »

EVERLAST

SUGAR RAY ROBINSON

CAREER RECORD: 174-19-6, 2 NO CONTESTS (109 KOS, 1 KOBY) • **FIRST RING RANKING:** NO. 7 LIGHTWEIGHT (MAY 1941) • **LAST RING RANKING:** NO. 8 MIDDLEWEIGHT (JULY 1962) • **RECORD VS. RING-RATED OPPONENTS:** 41-10-2 (17 KOS, 1 KOBY) • **OVERALL SCORE RANK:** 1 • **PEAK SCORE RANK:** 1 • **WIN TOTAL RANK:** 2 • **RING MAGAZINE CHAMPIONSHIPS: WELTERWEIGHT (1946-51), MIDDLEWEIGHT (1951, 51-52, 55-57, 57, 58-60)**

Often regarded as the greatest fighter of all time, Robinson's results highlight just how dominant he was in his prime. Robinson turned professional in October 1940 and rose to No. 1 contender at lightweight in the October 1941 issue following a win over future champion Sammy Angott. Two issues later, Robinson's defeat of former welterweight champion Fritzie Zivic resulted in Robinson being ranked the No. 1 contender to champion Freddie "Red" Cochrane. Robinson would stay ranked No. 1 in all but one issue from cover dates January 1942 to March 1944.

Robinson exited the ratings during his period of service during World War II, returned to the ratings ranked second in the January 1945 issue and then resumed as leading contender until defeating Tommy Bell for the vacant crown. Robinson was recognized as the welterweight champion until the March 1951 issue while also holding the No. 1 contender spot at middleweight from the November 1949 issue until he won his first of five middleweight crowns in the storied St. Valentine's Day Massacre versus Jake LaMotta. At the time of his first retirement in 1952, Robinson's career record stood at 132-3-2 with no losses versus welterweights, unbeaten streaks of 40 and then 91 contests, and a record against champions and ranked opposition from lightweight to light heavyweight of 35-3-1.

Across the years he was part of the Ring rankings, Robinson would post 14 wins over reigning champions or men ranked as the No. 1 contender in their division. Robinson is one of only three fighters in the study identified with 40 or more victories over Ring champions or ranked contenders. Returning to the ring in 1955, Robinson was never quite as consistent again but still added critical victories against Gene Fullmer and Carmen Basilio to further cement his legend.

MISSING QUALITY: The welterweight top 10 of the early 1940s was tough to crack. How tough? When Robinson handed 42-0 future welterweight champion Marty Servo his first loss in September 1941, Servo had yet to crack Ring's top 10. George Costner was not ranked in a Ring top 10 when Robinson first beat him, neither was Artie Levine or Carl "Bobo" Olson the first two times the future middleweight champ lost to Robinson, but all three would become fixtures of the ratings. A 1963 win over ranked welterweight Ralph Dupas was outside the study scope.

SCORING RESULTS:

Sammy Angott UD 10 - (1) - 135 - 09/41
Maxie Shapiro TKO 3 - (10) - 135 - 11/41
Fritzie Zivic UD 10 - (1) - 147 - 12/41
Fritzie Zivic TKO 10 - (3) - 147 - 03/42
Norman Rubio TKO 7 - (9) - 147 - 05/42
Marty Servo SD 10 - (7) - 147 - 07/42
Sammy Angott UD 10 - (C-) - 135 - 09/42
Tony Motisi KO 1 - (9) - 147 - 10/42
Jake LaMotta UD 10 - (10+) - 160 - 11/42
Izzy Jannazzo UD 10 - (10) - 147 - 12/42
Izzy Jannazzo TKO 8 - (10) - 01/43
Jake LaMotta L 10 - (6+) - 160 - 03/43
[California Jackie Wilson MD 10 - (3) - 147
Jake LaMotta UD 10 - (1+) 160 - 04/43]
Henry Armstrong UD 10 - (3) - 147 - 10/43
Vic Dellicurti UD 10 - (10+) - 160 - 01/45
Tommy Bell UD 10 - (7) - 147 - 03/45
Jake LaMotta UD 10 - (3+) - 160 - 04/45
Jose Basora D 10 - (6+) - 160 - 07/45
Jimmy McDaniels KO 2 - (6) - 147 - 08/45
Jake LaMotta SD 12 - (1+) - 160 - 11/45
Sammy Angott UD 10 - (7) - 147 - 04/46
Joe Curcio KO 2 - (10) - 147 - 09/46
Tommy Bell UD 15* - (3) - 147 - 01/47
Georgie Abrams SD 10 - (3+) - 160 - 07/47
Jimmy Doyle TKO 8 - (6) - 147 - 08/47
Bernard Docusen UD 15 - (1) - 147 - 08/48
Kid Gavilan UD 10 - (1) - 147 - 11/48
Kid Gavilan UD 15 - (1) - 147 - 08/49
Steve Belloise RTD 7 - (2+) - 160 - 10/49
George Costner KO 1 - (2) - 147 - 05/50
Robert Villemain UD 15 - (3) - 160 - 07/50
Charley Fusari W 15 - (5) - 147 - 09/50
Robert Villemain TKO 9 - (5) - 160 - 02/51
Jake LaMotta TKO 13* - (C) - 160 - 03/51
Randy Turpin L 15* - (1) - 160 - 08/51
Randy Turpin TKO 10* - (C) - 160 - 10/51
Rocky Graziano KO 3 - (10) - 160 - 05/52
Joey Maxim RTD by 13 - (C+) - 175 - 08/52
Ralph Jones L 10 - (UR) - 160 - 03/55
Rocky Castellani SD 10 - (2) - 160 - 09/55
Bobo Olson KO 2* - (C) - 160 - 01/56
Bobo Olson KO 4 - (1) - 160 - 06/56
Gene Fullmer L 15* - (1) - 160 - 02/57
Gene Fullmer KO 5* - (C) - 160 - 06/57
Carmen Basilio L 15* - (C-) - 147 - 10/57
Carmen Basilio SD 15* - (C) - 160 - 04/58
Paul Pender L 15* - (8) - 160 - 03/60
Paul Pender L 15 - (C) - 160 - 07/60
Gene Fullmer D 15 - (1) - 160 - 01/61
Gene Fullmer L 15 - (1) - 160 - 04/61
Denny Moyer UD 10 - (9) - 160 - 11/61
Denny Moyer L 10 - (9) - 160 - 03/62

#2 JOE LOUIS

CAREER RECORD: 66-3 (52 KOS, 2 KOBY) • **FIRST RING RANKING:** NO. 9 HEAVYWEIGHT (FEBRUARY 1935) • **LAST RING RANKING:** NO. 6 HEAVYWEIGHT (MARCH 1952) • **RECORD VS. RING-RATED OPPONENTS:** 31-3 (24 KOS, 2 KOBY) • **OVERALL SCORE RANK:** 2 • **PEAK SCORE RANK:** 2 • **WIN TOTAL RANK:** 9 • **RING MAGAZINE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** HEAVYWEIGHT (1937-49)

Arguably the most dominant champion in the history of boxing, the "Brown Bomber" reigned for a dozen years with a record 25 consecutive title defenses against all comers in his time. Louis is one of a group of seven fighters identified with between 30 and 39 wins against ranked opponents in the study. While the nickname "Bum of the Month Club" lingers on, a deeper look reveals those "bums" to be an assortment of the best heavyweights in the world for a generation. Louis began facing contenders just a dozen fights into his career and kept facing them for the rest of it.

Louis reached No. 1 contender in the December 1935 issue and held it until the August 1936 issue following his loss to Max Schmeling. The loss to Schmeling would be Louis' only defeat from his 1934 debut until a loss to Ezzard Charles in 1950 after a brief retirement. Louis was 10-1 against Ring-ranked opposition before defeating James Braddock for the crown.

Seventeen of Louis' 25 defenses came against ranked heavyweights, seven of them Ring's No. 1 contender, along with a win over reigning light heavyweight champion John Henry Lewis. That included a 1941 campaign where Louis set a heavyweight record with seven defenses in a single year, five of them against Ring-rated contenders. From 1930-1956, nine men would hold the heavyweight crown. Louis knocked out seven of them. That included his most legendary win, the first-round knockout of Max Schmeling in their rematch.

MISSING QUALITY: Louis could easily have been history's first two-time heavyweight king. The decision in the first fight with Walcott was contentious and Louis answered the challenge with a knockout in the rematch. The biggest question for Louis might be how many more title defenses he would have had without service in World War II. Was anything from 30 to 40 out of the question? The most formidable challenger in the war years may have been Jimmy Bivins. Bivins just missed being another contender on the ledger for Louis here. Bivins was unrated on the eve of his 1951 fight with Louis but would continue to fall in and out of the top 10 into 1953. Bivins would be Louis' final victory.

SCORING RESULTS:

[**Lee Ramage** TKO 8 - (10) - Hvy
Patsy Perroni W 10 - (6) - Hvy - 01/35]
Natie Brown UD 10 - (10) - Hvy - 05/35
Primo Carnera TKO 6 - (4) - Hvy - 08/35
King Levinsky TKO 1 - (10) - Hvy - 10/35
Max Baer KO 4 - (1) - Hvy - 11/35
Charley Retzlaff KO 1 - (4) - Hvy - 03/36
Max Schmeling KO by 12 - (2) - Hvy - 08/36
Jack Sharkey KO 3 - (4) - Hvy - 10/36
Al Ettore KO 5 - (3) - Hvy - 11/36
Bob Pastor UD 10 - (5) - Hvy - 03/37
James Braddock KO 8* - (C) - Hvy - 08/37
Tommy Farr UD 15 - (3) - Hvy - 10/37
Nathan Mann KO 3 - (3) - Hvy - 04/38
Max Schmeling KO 1 - (1) - Hvy - 08/38
John Henry Lewis KO 1 - (C-) - 175 - 03/39
Tony Galento TKO 4 - (3) - Hvy - 08/39
Bob Pastor KO 11 - (2) - Hvy - 11/39
Johnny Paycheck TKO 2 - (5) - Hvy - 05/40

Arturo Godoy TKO 8 - (1) - Hvy - 08/40
Red Burman KO 5 - (4) - Hvy - 03/41
Buddy Baer WDQ 7 - (5) - Hvy - 07/41
Billy Conn KO 13 - (2) - Hvy - 08/41
Lou Nova TKO 6 - (1) - Hvy - 11/41
Buddy Baer KO 1 - (4) - Hvy - 02/42
Abe Simon TKO 6 - (6) - Hvy - 05/42
Billy Conn KO 8 - (1) - Hvy - 08/46
Tami Mauriello KO 1 - (1) - Hvy - 11/46
Jersey Joe Walcott SD 15 - (1) - Hvy - 01/48
Jersey Joe Walcott KO 11 - (1) - Hvy - 08/48
Ezzard Charles L 15* - (1) - Hvy - 11/50
Lee Savold KO 6 - (4) - Hvy - 07/51
Cesar Brion UD 10 - (8) - Hvy - 09/51
Rocky Marciano TKO by 8 - (3) - Hvy - 12/51

MUHAMMAD ALI

CAREER RECORD: 56-5 (37 KOS, 1 KOBY) • **FIRST RING RANKING:** NO. 9 HEAVYWEIGHT (MARCH 1962) • **LAST RING RANKING:** NO. 5 HEAVYWEIGHT (NOVEMBER 1980) • **RECORD VS. RING-RATED OPPONENTS:** 32-4 (20 KOS, 1 KOBY) • **OVERALL SCORE RANK:** 3 • **PEAK SCORE RANK:** 3 • **WIN TOTAL RANK:** 8 • **RING MAGAZINE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** HEAVYWEIGHT (1964-70, 1974-78, 1978)

The self-proclaimed "Greatest" is the most documented boxer in history for good reason. A 1960 Olympic gold medalist at light heavyweight and the only fighter to capture the Ring (and lineal) heavyweight title three times, Ali entered the ratings less than two years into his career and defeated four top 10 contenders to earn his shot at Sonny Liston. Eight of the nine title defenses in Ali's first reign, including a rematch knockout of Liston, stoppage of former two-time champion Floyd Patterson and reunification win against WBA titlist Ernie Terrell, were against Ring-ranked contenders.

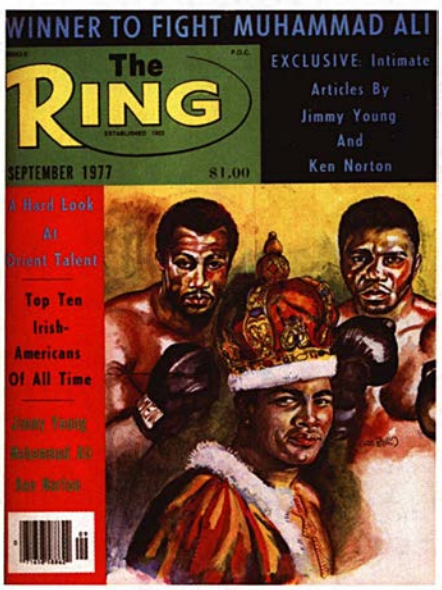
Remarkably, after more than three years of political exclusion from the game, Ali skipped tune-ups and defeated two prominent contenders to set up his first of three fights with Joe Frazier. After the loss to Frazier, Ali would fight 14 times, going 8-1 in that run against ranked opposition (seven heavyweights and light heavyweight champion Bob Foster) before upsetting George Foreman to regain the title.

Ali would defend the title successfully 10 times in his second reign, with seven wins against The Ring's top 10. Ali's last win would come in avenging a stunning upset loss to Leon Spinks, retiring as champion before an ill-fated comeback. Across his years in the Ring rankings, Ali would face all six of the other men The Ring recognized as heavyweight champion during those years, defeating five, along with five No. 1 contenders.

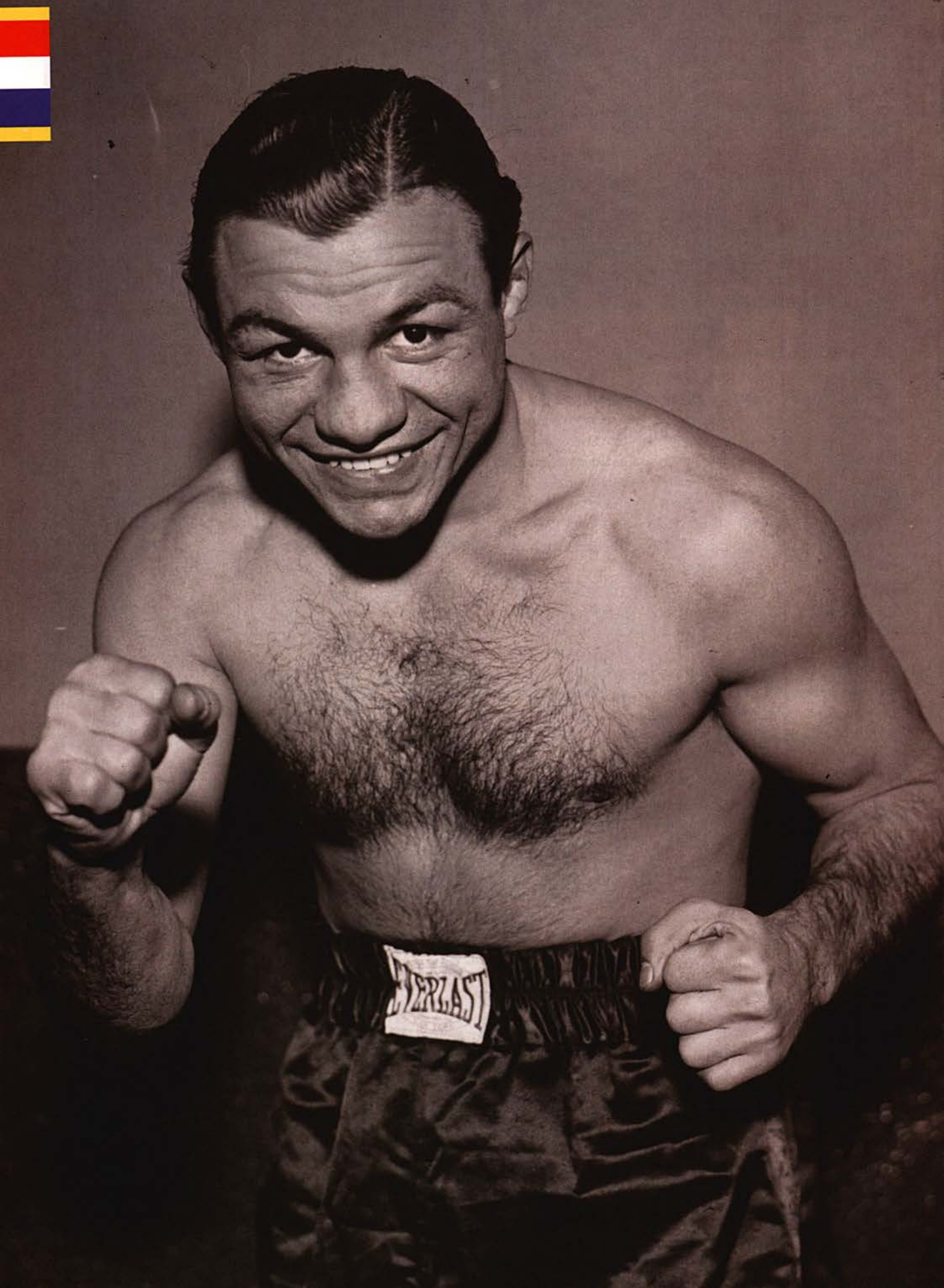
MISSING QUALITY: Ali's lost years between 1967 and 1970 will always leave room to wonder if he might have been able to surpass Louis' division record of 25 consecutive title defenses. Conversely, some scoring luck in Ali's second reign against Jimmy Young and Ken Norton contributed to his placement here. Of note, the parameters of this study exclude Ali's final loss to a rated Trevor Berbick. With Berbick, Ali can be said to have faced ranked opponents in 37 of 61 fights, a staggering 61 percent of his total professional starts. It is the highest percentage of anyone in this top 100.

SCORING RESULTS:

Alejandro Lavorante KO 5 - (10) - Hvy - 09/62
Archie Moore TKO 4 - (5) - Hvy - 12/62
Doug Jones UD 10 - (3) - Hvy - 04/63
Henry Cooper TKO 5 - (9) - Hvy - 07/63
Sonny Liston RTD 6* - (C) - Hvy - 02/64
Sonny Liston KO 1 - (1) - Hvy - 06/65
Floyd Patterson TKO 12 - (1) - Hvy - 12/65
George Chuvalo UD 15 - (9) - Hvy - 05/66
Henry Cooper TKO 6 - (7) - Hvy - 06/66
Karl Mildenberger TKO 12 - (3) - Hvy - 9/66
Cleveland Williams TKO 3 - (3) - Hvy - 01/67
Ernie Terrell UD 15 - (1) - Hvy - 03/67
Zora Folley KO 7 - (2) - Hvy - 05/67
Jerry Quarry RTD 3 - (1) - Hvy - 12/70
Oscar Bonavena TKO 15 - (3) - Hvy - 02/71
Joe Frazier L 15 - (C) - Hvy - 04/71
Jimmy Ellis TKO 12 - (7) - Hvy- 09/71
Mac Foster UD 15 - (6) - Hvy - 05/72
Jerry Quarry TKO 7 - (2) - Hvy - 08/72
Floyd Patterson RTD 7 - (3) - Hvy - 11/72



Bob Foster KO 8 - (C-) - 175 - 01/73
Joe Bugner UD 12 - (8) - Hvy - 03/73
Ken Norton L 12 - (9) - Hvy - 05/73
Ken Norton SD 12 - (2) - Hvy - 11/73
Joe Frazier UD 12 - (2) - Hvy - 03/74
George Foreman KO 8* - (C) - Hvy - 12/74
Chuck Wepner TKO 15 - (9) - Hvy - 05/75
Ron Lyle TKO 11 - (8) - Hvy - 07/75
Joe Bugner UD 15 - (4) - Hvy - 08/75
Joe Frazier RTD 14 - (2) - Hvy - 11/75
Jimmy Young UD 15 - (3) - Hvy - 06/76
Ken Norton UD 15 - (2) - Hvy - 11/76
Earnie Shavers UD 15 - (5) - Hvy - 11/77
Leon Spinks L 15* - (9) - Hvy - 03/78
Leon Spinks UD 15* - (C) - Hvy - 10/78
Larry Holmes RTD by 10 - (C) - Hvy - 10/80


EVERLAST

TONY CANZONERI

CAREER RECORD: 137-24-10, 4 NO DECISIONS (44 KOS, 1 KOBY) • **FIRST RING RANKING:** NO. 2 BANTAMWEIGHT (FEBRUARY 1927) • **LAST RING RANKING:** NO. 5 LIGHTWEIGHT (MAY 1939) • **RECORD VS. RING-RATED OPPONENTS:** 40-21-7, 1 NO DECISION (8 KOS) • **OVERALL SCORE RANK:** 5 • **PEAK SCORE RANK:** 6 • **WIN TOTAL RANK:** 3 • **RING MAGAZINE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** FEATHERWEIGHT (1927-28), LIGHTWEIGHT (1930-33, 35-36)

A force from bantamweight to lightweight with big wins against welterweights to go with it, Canzoneri spent more than a decade in the rankings. Canzoneri's record is loaded with multi-fight rivalries, including a four-way round robin with Jimmy McLarnin, Barney Ross and Billy Petrolle. Of his 40 wins against ranked opposition, 11 were against reigning champions or fighters ranked No. 1 in title and non-title affairs. They include a win over leading bantamweight Bud Taylor and two No. 1 contenders at welterweight (Harry Dublinsky, McLarnin).

Prior to championships at featherweight and lightweight, Canzoneri was rated the No. 2 bantamweight in the world and was ranked the top contender at junior lightweight from the March to August 1929 issues. Canzoneri never competed for the junior lightweight crown but defeated reigning champion Benny Bass in a non-title fight and defeated Kid Chocolate in defense of the lightweight crown. Canzoneri was the No. 1 contender at lightweight for all but two issues from October 1929 to July 1930 following his title reign at featherweight. Between reigns at lightweight, Canzoneri would hold the top contender slot from the August 1933-April 1935 editions.

MISSING QUALITY: Canzoneri came close to being the first fighter with titles in four weight classes. The 18-year-old Canzoneri's 1927 draw with Bud Taylor was for the vacant NBA bantamweight title, though The Ring recognized no one as champion between Charley Rosenberg earlier in the year and Panama Al Brown in 1931. Historians recognize Canzoneri as a three-division champion. Readers will note no such credit from The Ring. The NBA recognized the title change when Canzoneri stopped Jackie "Kid" Berg in three in 1931 with both Berg's junior welterweight crown and Canzoneri's lightweight crown billed as at stake. Writing in the July 1931 issue of The Ring, editor Nat Fleischer's position came down to the scales, specifically that Berg "could not lose his junior-welter crown when compelled to enter the ring at the lightweight limit."

SCORING RESULTS:

[George Mack D 6 - (UR) - 118
Davey Abad L 10 - (8) - 118
Andre Routis W 12 - (6+) - 126
Bushy Graham W 10 - (3) - 118
Joe Ryder D 10 - (UR) - 118
Johnny Green W 8 - (5) - 118
Bud Taylor D 10 - (4) - 118
Vic Burrone D 10 - (UR) - 118
Bud Taylor L 10 - (4) - 118 - 02/27]
[Eddie Anderson DQ by 3 - (UR) - 126
Ignacio Fernandez UD 10 - (8) - 126
Bud Taylor UD 10 - (1-) - 118
Pete Nebo D 10 - (UR) - 126 - 02/28]
Benny Bass SD 15* - (2) - 126 - 03/28
Harry Blitman L 10 - (9) - 126 - 07/28
Andre Routis L 15* - (7) - 126 - 10/28
Al Singer D 10 - (7) - 126 - 01/29
Joey Sangor TKO 7 - (2-) - 126 - 03/29
Sammy Dorfman W 10 - (6) - 130 - 05/29
Andre Routis UD 10 - (C-) - 126 - 06/29
Ignacio Fernandez W 10 - (2-) - 126 - 07/29
Sammy Mandell L 10 - (C) - 135 - 09/29
Eddie Mack TKO 8 (2-) - 130 - 10/29
[Johnny Farr W 10 - (6-) 130
Stanislaus Loayza UD 10 (8+) - 140 - 11/29]
Jackie Berg L 10 - (2) - 135 - 02/30
Stanislaus Loayza UD 10 - (4+) - 140 - 04/30
Steve Smith TKO 7 - (4-) - 130 - 05/30
Johnny Farr W 10 - (2-) - 130 - 06/30
[Joe Glick W 10 - (4+) - 140
Tommy Grogan W 10 - (7+) - 140 - 07/30]
Benny Bass UD 10 (C-) - 130 - 08/30
Billy Petrolle L 10 - (4+) - 140 - 10/30
Al Singer KO 1* - (C) - 135 - 12/30
Johnny Farr ND 10 - (4-) - 130 - 03/31
Sammy Fuller L 10 (8) - 135 - 04/31
Tommy Grogan W 10 - (5+) - 140 - 05/31
Jackie Berg KO 3 (C+) - 140 - 06/31
Jackie Berg UD 15 - (C+) - 140 - 10/31
Kid Chocolate SD 15 - (C-) - 130 - 12/31
Johnny Jadick L 10 - (9) - 135 - 02/32
[Battling Gizzy TKO 5 - (6) - 135
Harry Dublinsky SD 10 - (7) - 135 - 07/32]
Johnny Jadick L 10 - (9) - 135 - 08/32
Billy Petrolle UD 15 - (2) - 135 - 12/32
Wesley Ramey L10 - (2) - 135 - 05/33
Battling Shaw W 10 - (9) - 135 - 06/33
Barney Ross L 10* - (2) - 135 - 07/33
Barney Ross L 15 - (C) - 135 - 10/33
[Frankie Klick UD 10 - (8) - 135
Kid Chocolate KO 2 - (C-) - 126 - 12/33]
Cleo Locatelli MD 12 - (6) - 135 - 03/34
Baby Arizmendi W 10 - (4-) - 126 - 04/34
Frankie Klick TKO 9 - (2) - 135 - 08/34
Harry Dublinsky L 10 - (3+) - 147 - 10/34
Harry Dublinsky W 10 - (1+) - 147 - 11/34
Chuck Woods L 10 - (UR) - 135 - 04/35
Lou Ambers UD 15* - (1) - 135 - 07/35
Frankie Klick SD 12 - (2) - 135 - 08/35
Frankie Klick W 10 - (3) - 135 - 10/35
[Joe Ghnouly UD 10 - (8) - 135
Al Roth UD 15 - (7) - 135 - 11/35]
Jimmy McLarnin UD 10 - (1+) - 147 - 06/36
Lou Ambers L 15* - (1) - 135 - 10/36
Jimmy McLarnin L 10 - (2+) - 147 - 11/36
Lou Ambers L 15 - (C) - 135 - 06/37
Eddie Zivic L 10 - (UR) - 135 - 11/37
[Eddie Brink L 10 - (UR) - 135
Jimmy Vaughn D 8 - (UR) - 135 - 05/39]

EVERLAST

EMILE GRIFFITH

CAREER RECORD: 85-24-2, 1 NO CONTEST (23 KOS, 2 KOBY) • **FIRST RING RANKING:** NO. 10 WELTERWEIGHT (MAY 1960) • **LAST RING RANKING:** NO. 8 MIDDLEWEIGHT (APRIL 1976) • **RECORD VS. RING-RATED OPPONENTS:** 36-19-2 (6 KOS, 2 KOBY) • **OVERALL SCORE RANK:** 8 • **PEAK SCORE RANK:** 5 • **WIN TOTAL RANK:** 5 • **RING MAGAZINE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** WELTERWEIGHT (1961, 1962-63, 1963-66), MIDDLEWEIGHT (1966-67, 1967-68)

A consistent factor at welterweight and middleweight from the early 1960s to the mid-1970s, Griffith won five world championships against a bevy of tough competition. In a 111-fight career, nearly half of Griffith's opponents could be found ranked in the pages of Ring Magazine. A thrilling boxer-puncher with exceptional physical strength and stamina, Griffith was No. 1 contender for only an issue before snagging his first title from Benny Paret. Griffith could be defeated, but his ability to consistently rebound from losses was remarkable. Along with his five world title wins, Griffith also posted wins over No. 1 contenders in their weight class from lightweight to light heavyweight.

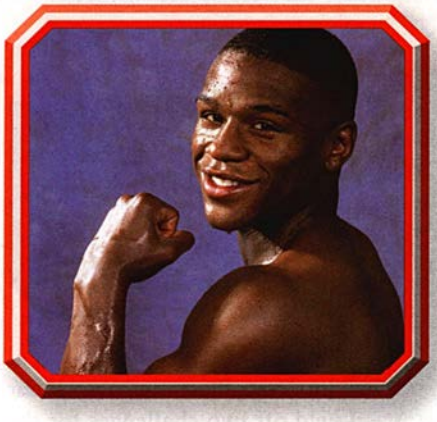
Griffith's career was marked by several multi-fight rivalries. He came out ahead 2-1 in a fateful rivalry with Paret, narrowly edged Luis Rodriguez 3-1 over four fights and pounded past Denny Moyer in two of their three contests. Above welterweight, Nino Benvenuti won their series 2-1. Carlos Monzon held off two challenges for the middleweight title while Dick Tiger came up empty-handed in two fights vs. Griffith, who held "Bad" Bennie Briscoe at bay with a win and a draw.

MISSING QUALITY: A little luck goes a long way, and Griffith's three wins over Rodriguez were all by split decision. History could have played differently for both with just a few rounds of difference. The junior middleweight division today is a 60-year stalwart of the game, but in the 1960s it was a new concept with which Griffith lightly flirted. Griffith's 1962 win over Ted Wright crowned the first junior middleweight titlist (at least in Austria, where the bout took place, and other parts of Europe), though the WBA wouldn't recognize the title on a global scale until soon after when Moyer defeated Joey Giambra.

SCORING RESULTS:

Denny Moyer SD 10 - (5) - 147 - 04/60
Denny Moyer L10 - (7) - 147 - 06/60
Florentino Fernandez UD 10 - (6) - 147 - 10/60
Luis Rodriguez SD 10 - (1) - 147 - 01/61
Benny Paret KO 13* - (C) - 147 - 05/61
Gaspar Ortega TKO 12 - (7) - 147 - 07/61
Yama Bahama UD 10 - (7+) - 160 - 09/61
Benny Paret L 15* - (1) - 147 - 11/61
Benny Paret TKO 12* - (C) - 147 - 05/62
Ralph Dupas UD 15 - (1) - 147 - 08/62
Denny Moyer SD 10 - (5+) - 160 - 09/62
Ted Wright W 15 - (4) - 147 - 11/62
Jorge Fernandez TKO 9 - (4) - 147 - 01/63
Luis Rodriguez L 15* - (1) - 147 - 04/63
Luis Rodriguez SD 15* - (C) - 147 - 07/63
Jose Gonzalez MD 10 - (7+) - 160 - 11/63
Rubin Carter TKO by 1 - (8+) - 160 - 01/64
Ralph Dupas KO 3 - (4) - 147 - 03/64
Luis Rodriguez SD 15 - (1) - 147 - 07/64
Brian Curvis UD 15 - (3) - 147 - 11/64
Dave Charnley TKO 9 - (1-) - 135 - 01/65
Manuel Gonzalez L 10 - (4) - 147 - 03/65
Jose Stable UD 15 - (3) - 147 - 05/65
Don Fullmer L 12 - (UR+) - 160 - 09/65
Manuel Gonzalez UD 15 - (2) - 147 - 01/66
Dick Tiger UD 15* - (C+) - 160 - 06/66
Joey Archer MD 15 - (7) - 160 - 08/66
Joey Archer UD 15 - (7) - 160 - 03/67
Nino Benvenuti L 15* - (1) - 160 - 06/67
Nino Benvenuti MD 15* - (C) - 160 - 11/67
Nino Benvenuti L 15* - (2) - 160 - 04/68
Gypsy Joe Harris UD 12 - (9) - 160 - 09/68
Stan Hayward L 10 - (6-) - 147 - 12/68
Stan Hayward UD 12 - (3) - 160 - 07/69
Jose Napoles L 15 - (C-) - 147 - 12/69
Doyle Baird UD 10 - (8) - 160 - 03/70
Tom Bogs W 10 - (5) - 160 - 07/70
Dick Tiger UD 10 - (1+) - 175 - 09/70
Nate Collins UD 10 - (10) - 160 - 12/70
Ernie Lopez MD 10 - (3-) - 147 - 06/71
Nessim Cohen UD 10 - (4) - 160 - 09/71
Carlos Monzon TKO by 14 - (C) - 160 - 11/71
Armando Muniz UD 10 - (6-) - 147 - 03/72
Ernie Lopez UD 10 - (1-) - 147 - 05/72
Jean Claude Bouttier DQ by 7 - (4) - 160 - 02/73
Nessim Cohen D 10 - (UR) - 160 - 04/73
Carlos Monzon L 15 - (C) - 160 - 07/73
Tony Mundine L 12 - (1) - 160 - 01/74
Tony Licata L 12 - (7) - 160 - 04/74
Bennie Briscoe MD 10 - (4) - 160 - 12/74
[Vito Antuofermo L 10 - (9) - 160
Donato Paduano UD 10 - (9-) - 154 - 01/75]
Jose Luis Duran L 10 - (UR) - 160 - 07/75
[Leo Saenz UD 10 - (5-) - 154
Elijah Makhathini L 10 - (UR) - 160 - 09/75]
Loucif Hamani L 10 - (UR) - 160 - 03/76
Bennie Briscoe D 10 - (5) - 160 - 08/76

#6 FLOYD MAYWEATHER



- **CAREER RECORD:** 50-0 (27 KOS)
- **FIRST RING RANKING:** NO. 10 JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT (JULY 1998)
- **LAST RING RANKING:** WELTERWEIGHT CHAMPION (DECEMBER 2015)
- **RECORD VS. RING-RATED OPPONENTS:** 23-0 (8 KOS)
- **OVERALL SCORE RANK:** 4
- **PEAK SCORE RANK:** 4
- **WIN TOTAL RANK:** 22
- **RING MAGAZINE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** LIGHTWEIGHT (2002-04), WELTERWEIGHT (2006-08, 2013-15), JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT (2013-15)

The biggest box-office attraction of his time, Mayweather won major titles in five weight classes, partially unifying welterweight and junior middleweight, without a defeat over nearly 20 years as a pro. A bronze medalist at the 1996 Olympics, Mayweather's first win over a Ring-ranked opponent was also his first for a title (the WBC 130-pound strap). From that win over Genaro Hernandez to his farewell against mixed martial artist Conor McGregor, Mayweather would face 23 men found in the Ring rankings across 33 fights. Twelve of those 23 wins came against men The Ring recognized in their division as champion, No. 1 contender or next highest-rated contender after a division-leading Mayweather. That included wins at welterweight over the reigning lightweight (Juan Manuel Marquez) and junior welterweight (Ricky Hatton) champions.

Mayweather's most impressive run may have come in his first weight class with five wins over ranked opposition in title fights at junior lightweight. Mayweather was nearly untouchable in the class. His success continued well after he moved up the scale. Mayweather was 8-0 against ranked welterweights, including a feud-settling decision over his most prominent contemporary in Manny Pacquiao to unify the WBA, WBC and WBO belts. Mayweather also briefly held the IBF belt in 2006. He was 3-0 against ranked junior middleweights, including handing Canelo Alvarez his first and to date only loss. Of the 25 fighters identified with between 20 and 29 wins against ranked foes, Mayweather finished the highest.

MISSING QUALITY: Between wins over Diego Corrales and Jesus Chavez in a stellar 2001 campaign, Mayweather defeated Carlos Hernandez, who was unranked by The Ring at the time. Hernandez would go on to be ranked, and win a belt, in the 130-pound class in the years after that fight. Mayweather's junior lightweight run came during the era where The Ring didn't render championships. It cost him a fourth divisional crown from the publication. When Azumah Nelson defeated Jeff Fenech in their 1992 rematch, they were The Ring's top two contenders in the class. Assuming that would have crowned a king, the straight line from there would have ended at Mayweather-Hernandez. Mayweather's wins over Angel Manfredy and Diego Corrales were also "No. 1 vs. No. 2" fights and surely would have filled a vacancy had The Ring resumed recognizing champions again before either fight.

SCORING RESULTS:

Genaro Hernandez RTD 8 - (1) - 130 - Holiday 1998
Angel Manfredy TKO 2 - (2) -130 - 03/99
Gregorio Vargas UD 12 - (10) - 130 - 06/00
Diego Corrales TKO 10 - (1) - 130 - 05/01
Jesus Chavez RTD 9 - (4) - 130 - 02/02
Jose Luis Castillo UD 12* - (1) - 135 - 08/02
Jose Luis Castillo UD 12 - (1) - 135 - 02/03
Phillip N'Dou TKO 7 - (4-) - 130 - 02/04
DeMarcus Corley UD 12 - (5+) - 140 - 09/04
Arturo Gatti RTD 6 - (1) - 140 - 10/05
Zab Judah UD 12 - (3) - 147 - 07/06
Carlos Baldomir UD 12* - (C) - 147 - 02/07
Oscar De La Hoya SD 12 - (5+) - 154 - 07/07
Ricky Hatton TKO 10 - (C-) - 140 - 03/08
Juan Manuel Marquez UD 12 (C--) - 135 - 11/09
Shane Mosley UD 12 - (2) - 147 - 07/10
Victor Ortiz KO 4 - (2) - 147 - 11/11
Miguel Cotto UD 12 - (1+) - 154 - 07/12
Robert Guerrero UD 12* - (3) - 147 - 07/13
Canelo Alvarez MD 12* - (C) - 154 - 11/13
Marcos Maidana MD 12 - (8) - 147 - 07/14
Marcos Maidana UD 12 - (5) - 147 - 11/14
Manny Pacquiao UD 12 - (1) - 147 - 07/15

#7 WILLIE PEP

- **CAREER RECORD:** 229-11-1 (65 KOS, 6 KOBY)
- **FIRST RING RANKING:** NO. 9 FEATHERWEIGHT (AUGUST 1942)
- **LAST RING RANKING:** NO. 10 FEATHERWEIGHT (FEBRUARY 1959)
- **RECORD VS. RING-RATED OPPONENTS:** 29-10-1 (7 KOS, 6 KOBY)
- **OVERALL SCORE RANK:** 16
- **PEAK SCORE RANK:** 7
- **WIN TOTAL RANK:** 11
- **RING MAGAZINE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** FEATHERWEIGHT (1942-48, 1949-50)

Genius is a word easily abused, but not when it comes to Pep's best years at featherweight. Pep won his first 62 fights with four wins against Ring-ranked opposition, including his featherweight title win over Chalky Wright, before his career was three years old. Pep spent only six months in the top 10, two of them as No. 1 contender, before winning a title he would hold in his first reign for almost six years. Sammy Angott handed him his first defeat in a lightweight contest in March 1943. By the time Pep lost again versus Sandy Saddler in October 1948, overcoming injuries suffered in a January 1947 plane crash along the way, Pep had run his record to 134-1-1. Saddler ended a 72-fight unbeaten streak.

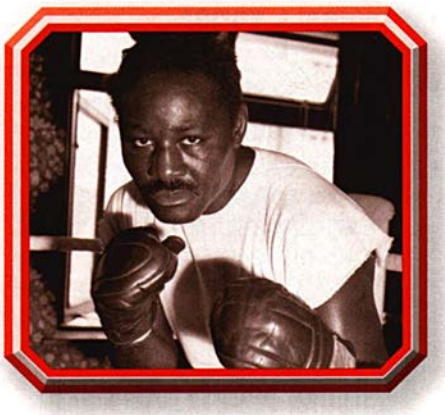
From his entry into the Ring rankings until the Saddler loss, Pep's record against champions and contenders from bantamweight to lightweight was 22-1-1, included wins over one of the dominant bantamweight champions ever in Manuel Ortiz and future lightweight champion Paddy DeMarco. Pep regained the crown from Saddler after two quick tune-ups in his most memorable win and added four more wins against ranked opponents in a 15-fight win streak before losing the title to Saddler for the second time. Saddler and Pep would face off one more time, Pep losing the series to his archrival 3-1 with all three losses inside the distance.

MISSING QUALITY: Pep's dominance at featherweight included recognizable names who weren't far removed from contention when Pep defeated them. Former champion Joey Archibald received his final Ring ranking, at No. 6, in the January 1942 issue. Seven months later, Pep defeated him by wide decision. Pep posted two wins over Jackie Wilson, in 1943 and 1946, both with Wilson outside the rankings. Wilson's final Ring ranking, ninth at featherweight, came in the February 1946 issue. The second Wilson win came shortly after that.

SCORING RESULTS:

Pedro Hernandez W 10 - (1) - 126 - 09/42
Vince Dell'Orto W 10 - (8) - 126 - 11/42
Chalky Wright UD 15* - (C) - 126 - 01/43
Allie Stolz UD 10 - (3+) - 135 - 03/43
[Sammy Angott L 10 - (UR+) - 135
Sal Bartolo SD 10 - (3) - 126 - 05/43]
Sal Bartolo UD 15 - (2) - 126 - 07/43
Julie Kogon W 10 - (10+) - 135 - 07/44
Willie Joyce UD 10 - (5+) - 135 - 08/44
[Manuel Ortiz UD 10 - (C-) - 118
Lulu Constantino UD 10 - (6+) - 135 - 09/44]
[Charles "Cabey" Lewis TKO 8 - (7) - 126
Chalky Wright UD 15 - (1) - 126 - 11/44]
[Charles "Cabey" Lewis UD 10 - (7) - 126
Chalky Wright UD 10 - (4) - 126 - 01/45]
Willie Roache W 10 - (4) - 126 - 03/45
Phil Terranova UD 15 - (2) - 126 - 04/45
Jimmy McAllister D 10 - (UR) - 126 - 01/46
Sal Bartolo KO 12 - (1) - 126 - 07/46
Jackie Graves TKO 8 - (2) - 126 - 09/46
Humberto Sierra UD 10 - (8) - 126 - 09/47
Jock Leslie KO 12 - (5) - 126 - 10/47
Humberto Sierra TKO 2 - (1) - 126 - 04/48
Paddy DeMarco UD 10 - (6+) - 135 - 10/48
Sandy Saddler KO by 4* - (1) - 126 - 12/48
Sandy Saddler UD 15* - (C) - 126 - 03/49
Eddie Compo TKO 7 - (10) - 126 - 11/49
Harold Dade UD 10 - (9) - 126 - 01/50
Charley Riley KO 5 - (5) - 126 - 02/50
Ray Famechon UD 15 - (2) - 126 - 05/50
Sandy Saddler RTD by 8* - (1) - 126 - 10/50
Eddie Chavez MD 10 - (8+) - 135 - 06/51
Corky Gonzales UD 10 - (10) - 126 - 10/51
Sandy Saddler RTD by 9 - (C) - 126 - 11/51
Tommy Collins TKO by 6 - (10) - 126 - 08/52
Lulu Perez TKO by 2 - (5) - 126 - 04/54
Gil Cadilli L 10 - (UR) - 126 - 05/55
Tommy Tibbs L 10 - (UR) - 126 - 02/58
Hogan Bassey TKO by 9 - (C) - 126 - 11/58
Sonny Leon L 10 - (UR) - 126 - 02/59

#8 EZZARD CHARLES



- **CAREER RECORD:** 95-25-1 (52 KOS, 7 KOBY)
- **FIRST RING RANKING:** NO. 2 MIDDLEWEIGHT (MARCH 1942)
- **LAST RING RANKING:** NO. 10 HEAVYWEIGHT (APRIL 1956)
- **RECORD VS. RING-RATED OPPONENTS:** 36-16-1 (19 KOS, 5 KOBY)
- **OVERALL SCORE RANK:** 24
- **PEAK SCORE RANK:** 8
- **WIN TOTAL RANK:** 6
- **RING MAGAZINE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** HEAVYWEIGHT (1950-51)

The "Cincinnati Cobra" competed with the elite from middleweight to heavyweight for the better part of a decade without a title shot. Charles had some big wins and losses in the first three years of his career, reaching The Ring's No. 1 contender spot at middleweight in the October-December 1942 issues before assuming the No. 2 contender spot at light heavyweight in the January 1943 issue.

Charles lost most of three years' activity (between 1943-45) to service in World War II and left for the war with a professional mark of 30-4-1. When he resumed his career in 1946, he engaged in one of history's greatest runs. From February 1946 to losing the heavyweight title to Jersey Joe Walcott in July 1951, Charles went 39-1 overall with a 20-1 mark against opponents ranked at light heavyweight and heavyweight. The lone loss in that stretch, a debated decision versus Elmer Ray, was avenged by knockout. He also avenged pre-war losses to Jimmy Bivins and Lloyd Marshall multiple times apiece while winning all three battles with Archie Moore.

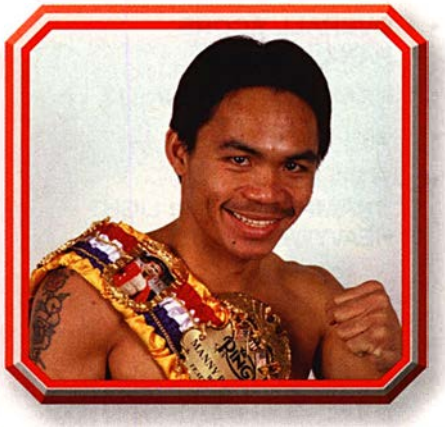
Charles was The Ring's leading light heavyweight contender for all but two issues from August 1946 to October 1948 without ever receiving a title shot. He entered the heavyweight ratings at No. 2 and ultimately held the No. 1 contender spot from the April 1949 issue until earning recognition from The Ring as heavyweight champion in the December 1950 issue following a win over an unranked and recently unretired Joe Louis. Charles had won the NBA's recognition as champion in June 1949 following his first win over Walcott.

MISSING QUALITY: Charles is lauded by many, including biographer William Dettloff while writing for The Ring, as the greatest light heavyweight of all time. That championship is sorely missing from his resume. The Ring recognized only four men as light heavyweight champion from August 1941 to March 1962: Gus Lesnevich, Freddie Mills, Joey Maxim and Moore. Charles never faced Mills, but against the other three his record was 9-0. The first two wins against Maxim came in 1942 when Maxim was unranked and often competing at heavyweight. Louis might have been unranked when Charles defeated him, but Louis would immediately return to the top 10 after the loss and added two more top 10 wins before his career was complete. Charles also posted an early career win over Teddy Yarosz just one month after Yarosz exited the Ring rankings for the last time.

SCORING RESULTS:

Anton Christoforidis TKO 3 - (2+) - 175 - 02/42
Ken Overlin D 10 - (2+) - 175 - 04/42
Kid Tunero L 10 - (6) - 160 - 06/42
Charley Burley UD 10 - (3-) - 147 - 07/42
Charley Burley UD 10 - (4-) - 147 - 08/42
Booker Beckwith KO 9 - (3+) - 175 - 09/42
Jose Basora KO 5 - (10) - 160 - 10/42
Jimmy Bivins L 10 - (1/4+) - 175/Hvy - 02/43
Lloyd Marshall TKO by 8 - (4) - 175 - 05/43
Archie Moore UD 10 - (1) - 175 - 07/46
Oakland Billy Smith UD 10 - (9) - 175 - 11/46
Jimmy Bivins UD 10 - (10+) - Hvy - 12/46
[Oakland Billy Smith KO 5 - (6) - 175
Jimmy Bivins KO 4 - (5+) - Hvy - 04/47]
Archie Moore MD 10 - (5) - 175 - 06/47
Elmer Ray L 10 - (2+) - Hvy - 09/47
Lloyd Marshall KO 2 - (5) - 175 - 11/47
Fitzie Fitzpatrick TKO 4 - (9+) - Hvy - 01/48
Archie Moore KO 8 - (2) - 175 - 03/48
Elmer Ray KO 9 - (2+) - Hvy - 06/48
Jimmy Bivins UD 10 - (9+) - Hvy - 10/48
Joe Baksi TKO 11 - (6) - Hvy - 01/49
Joey Maxim MD 15 - (4) - Hvy - 04/49
Jersey Joe Walcott UD 15 - (2) - Hvy - 08/49
Gus Lesnevich RTD 7 - (7) - Hvy - 09/49
Pat Valentino KO 8 - (6) - Hvy - 11/49
Nick Barone KO 11 - (6-) - 175 - 01/51
Lee Oma TKO 10 - (4) - Hvy - 02/51
Jersey Joe Walcott UD 15 - (6) - Hvy - 04/51
Joey Maxim UD 15 - (C-/3) - 175/Hvy - 07/51
Jersey Joe Walcott KO by 7* - (2) - Hvy - 08/51
Rex Layne TKO 11 - (7) - Hvy - 11/51
Joey Maxim UD 12 - (C-) - 175 - 01/52
Jersey Joe Walcott L 15 - (C) - Hvy - 07/52
Rex Layne L 10 - (9) - Hvy - 09/52
Jimmy Bivins UD 10 - (10) - Hvy - 01/53
Tommy Harrison TKO 9 - (5-) - 175 - 03/53
Rex Layne UD 10 - (4) - Hvy - 05/53
Larry Watson KO 5 - (7-) - 175 - 07/53
Nino Valdes L 10 - (UR) - Hvy - 09/53
Harold Johnson L 10 - (2-) - 175 - 10/53
Coley Wallace KO 10 - (9) - Hvy - 01/54
Bob Satterfield KO 2 - (7) - Hvy - 02/54
Rocky Marciano L 15 - (C) - Hvy - 07/54
Rocky Marciano KO by 8 - (C) - Hvy - 10/54
Charley Norkus UD 10 - (9) - Hvy - 04/55
John Holman TKO by 9 - (UR) - Hvy - 06/55
John Holman UD 10 - (6) - Hvy - 07/55
Paul Andrews SD 10 - (6-) - 175 - 08/55
Tommy Jackson L 10 - (3) - Hvy - 09/55
Tommy Jackson L 10 - (3) - Hvy - 10/55
Toxie Hall L10 - (UR) - Hvy - 12/55
Young Jack Johnson TKO by 6 - (UR) - Hvy - 02/56

#9 MANNY PACQUIAO



- **CAREER RECORD:** 62-8-2 (39 KOS, 3 KOBY)
- **FIRST RING RANKING:** NO. 1 FLYWEIGHT (APRIL 1999)
- **LAST RING RANKING:** NO. 5 WELTERWEIGHT (DECEMBER 2021)
- **RECORD VS. RING-RATED OPPONENTS:** 23-7-2 (11 KOS, 2 KOBY)
- **OVERALL SCORE RANK:** 6
- **PEAK SCORE RANK:** 9
- **WIN TOTAL RANK:** 23
- **RING MAGAZINE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** FEATHERWEIGHT (2003-05), JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT (2008), JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT (2009-10)

The Filipino icon cracked Ring Magazine top 10s in four different decades from the 1990s to the 2020s with wins over reigning champions or opponents ranked in the top two of every weight class he competed in from flyweight to welterweight.

Pacquiao entered the rankings winning his first major title at age 19 with a come-from-behind knockout of Chatchai Sasakul. While Pacquiao was widely unknown when he received his second title shot against Lehlo Ledwaba at junior featherweight, it's easy to overlook that he was a fixture in The Ring's junior featherweight top 10 for almost two years prior to the fight. He would never be unknown by anyone again.

Along with Ring Magazine titles at featherweight, junior lightweight and junior welterweight, Pacquiao also achieved No. 1-contender rankings at junior featherweight and welterweight along with a No. 1 ranking at flyweight in the era when The Ring did not recognize singular champions.

Pacquiao couldn't solve the riddle of Mayweather in the richest fight of all time, but several multi-fight rivalries magnified the greatness of Pacquiao. He topped Tim Bradley in two of their three fights. In nine fights against the Mexican trio of Marco Antonio Barrera, Erik Morales and Juan Manuel Marquez, Pacquiao was an impressive 6-2-1 and rebounded from a devastating knockout loss to Marquez in the last of those fights to add seven more wins over ranked opponents before what appears to be his farewell loss to Yordenis Ugas.

MISSING QUALITY: Pacquiao is one of the most decorated fighters in history and the highest-finishing southpaw in this study. Combining sanctioning body and lineal and/or Ring championships, Pacquiao is the only fighter with title claims in eight weight classes. Antonio Margarito was not ranked by The Ring in the top 10 at junior middleweight when Pacquiao defeated him at a catchweight for a belt in that class but had been a fixture in the welterweight top 10 for nearly a decade. Had The Ring maintained its title policy through the 1990s, Pacquiao would likely have a fourth Ring title at flyweight for his win over Sasakul. Sasakul was "the man who beat the man" dating back to Miguel Canto.

SCORING RESULTS:

Chatchai Sasakul KO 8 - (2) - 112 - 03/99
Medgoen Singsurat TKO by 3 - (UR) - 112 - Holiday/99
Lehlo Ledwaba TKO 6 - (2) - 122 - 10/01
Agapito Sanchez Tech. Draw 6 - (10) - 122 - 02/02
Marco Antonio Barrera TKO 11* - (C) - 126 - 03/04
Juan Manuel Marquez D 12 - (1) - 126 - 09/04
Erik Morales L12 - (2+) - 130 - Vol. IV/05
Erik Morales TKO 10 - (2) - 130 - 05/06
Oscar Larios UD 12 - (2--) - 122 - 10/06
Erik Morales KO 3 - (3) - 130 - 02/07
Jorge Solis KO 8 - (8-) - 126 - 07/07
Marco Antonio Barrera UD 12 - (3) - 130 - 01/08
Juan Manuel Marquez SD 12* - (2) - 130 - 06/08
David Diaz TKO 9 - (2) - 135 - Fall/08
Oscar De La Hoya RTD 8 - (3+++) - 154 - 02/09
Ricky Hatton KO 2* - (C-) - 140 - 06/09
Miguel Cotto TKO 12 - (3+) - 147 - 01/10
Joshua Clottey UD 12 - (5) - 147 - 05/10
Shane Mosley UD 12 - (4) - 147 - 07/11
Juan Manuel Marquez MD 12 - (C--) - 135 - 01/12
Timothy Bradley L 12 - (1-) - 147 - 08/12
Juan Manuel Marquez KO by 6 - (4-) - 140 - 02/13
Brandon Rios UD 12 - (7-) - 140 - 01/14
Timothy Bradley UD 12 - (1) - 147 - 06/14
Chris Algieri UD 12 - (3-) - 140 - 01/15
Floyd Mayweather L 12 - (C) - 147 - 07/15
Timothy Bradley UD 12 - (4) - 147 - 07/16
Jessie Vargas UD 12 - (8) - 147 - 01/17
Jeff Horn L 12 - (UR) - 147 - 09/17
Lucas Matthysse TKO 7 - (9) - 147 - 09/18
Keith Thurman SD 12 - (3) - 147 - 09/19
Yordenis Ugas L 12 - (6) - 147 - 10/21

#10 ARCHIE MOORE

- **CAREER RECORD:** 186-23-10, 1 NO CONTEST (132 KOS, 7 KOBY)
- **FIRST RING RANKING:** NO. 5 MIDDLEWEIGHT (JULY 1940)
- **LAST RING RANKING:** NO. 9 HEAVYWEIGHT (MAY 1963)
- **RECORD VS. RING-RATED OPPONENTS:** 39-19-7 (18 KOS, 7 KOBY)
- **OVERALL SCORE RANK:** 22
- **PEAK SCORE RANK:** 17
- **WIN TOTAL RANK:** 4
- **RING MAGAZINE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT (1952-62)

One of boxing's great, ageless wonders, the "Old Mongoose" tackled contenders from middleweight to heavyweight for 17 years before finally getting a crack at a world title. Moore made the most of his opportunity and would be recognized by The Ring as champion for the next decade.

Moore moved in and out of the middleweight top 10 from 1940 to 1944, reaching the No. 1 contender spot at middleweight just once, in the March 1943 issue. He would enter the top 10 of his signature weight class in the March 1945 issue and have several stints as the top contender in all but one issue from August 1945-July 1946; the June-August 1949 issues; and then for all but two issues from April 1950 to his victory over Maxim for the title as recognized in the February 1953 issue. Moore would also have a lengthy stint as the No. 1 contender at heavyweight from the July 1955-January 1957 issues, though boxing's highest honor eluded him.

Moore's record entering his challenge of Maxim was 133-19-8. Twenty-seven of those wins came against ranked opposition after Moore entered the rankings for the first time. That's really earning a shot at the champ.

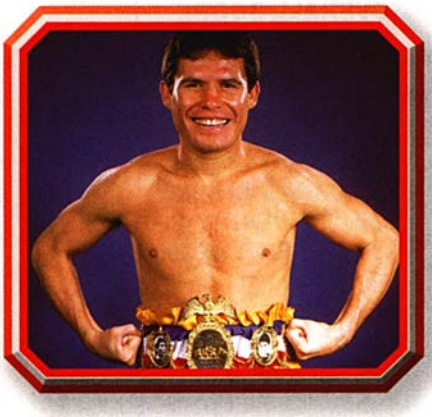
Moore faced everyone in the famed "murderer's row" of the 1930s and '40s, and while he didn't best them all, Moore's remarkable durability allowed him to long outlast the field. He posted five wins over The Ring's No. 1-ranked contender at light heavyweight, four in defense of the crown, five more over No. 2 contenders, and bested No. 1-ranked heavyweight Nino Valdez to set up an ill-fated shot at Rocky Marciano. The stretch to Marciano was one of Moore's most impressive. In three straight fights, Moore knocked out longtime rival and leading contender Harold Johnson, jumped up to decision Valdez at heavyweight and then returned to light heavyweight to knock out reigning middleweight champion Bobo Olson.

MISSING QUALITY: Before he entered the rankings for the first time, Moore split fights with Johnny "Bandit" Romero in 1938. Romero was ranked intermittently at light heavyweight from 1937-38 and for most of 1943. Moore suffered defeats to Teddy Yarosz and Shorty Hogue as well before breaking through at middleweight with a win over Ron Richards. Moore's first win over Jack Chase came when Chase was unranked, though Chase's name comes up often from there. As an interesting footnote, a fight that has gained fame over time came at a time when Moore was unranked: his defeat at the hands of Charley Burley. Moore had slipped from the middleweight top 10 after a knockout loss to Eddie Booker.

SCORING RESULTS:

[**Ron Richards** TKO 10 - (6) - 160
Atilio Sabatino TKO 5 - (5) - 160 - 06/40]
Ron Richards W 12 - (6) - 160 - 08/40
Shorty Hogue L 10 - (UR) - 160 - 03/41
Eddie Booker D 10 - (UR) - 160 - 04/41
Eddie Booker D 12 - (5) - 160 - 01/43
Jack Chase UD 15 - (9) - 160 - 06/43
Jack Chase L 15 - (6) - 160 - 09/43
Aaron Wade L10 - (UR) - 160 - 10/43
Jack Chase MD 10 - (3) - 160 - 01/44
Eddie Booker TKO by 8 - (UR) - 160 - 03/44
Charley Burley L 10 - (4) - 160 - 06/44
Nate Bolden UD 10 - (5) - 175 - 05/45
Lloyd Marshall UD 10 - (1) - 175 - 07/45
[**George Kochan** TKO 6 - (3) - 175
Lloyd Marshall TKO 10 - (2) - 175 - 08/45]
Jimmy Bivins KO by 6 - (2+) - Hvy - 10/45
Cocoa Kid KO 8 - (9-) - 160 - 11/45
Holman Williams L 10 - (1-) - 160 - 12/45
Holman Williams TKO 11 - (1-) - 160 - 01/46
Ezzard Charles L 10 - (5) - 175 - 07/46
[**Oakland Billy Smith** D 12 - (9) - 175
Jack Chase D 10 - (10) - 175 - 12/46]
Jack Chase KO 9 - (8) - 175 - 05/47
Ezzard Charles L 10 - (1) - 175 - 06/47
Bert Lytell UD 10 - (4-) - 160 - 09/47
Jimmy Bivins RTD 8 - (3+) - Hvy - 10/47
Ezzard Charles KO by 8 - (1) - 175 - 03/48
Oakland Billy Smith UD 10 - (2) - 175 - 06/48
Leonard Morrow KO by 1 - (UR) - 175 - 07/48
Jimmy Bivins MD 10 - (2+) - Hvy - 08/48
Henry Hall L 10 - (UR) - 175 - 12/48
[**Lloyd Gibson** DQ by 4 - (UR) - 175
Henry Hall UD 10 - (10) - 175 - 01/49]
Charley Williams KO 7 - (7) - 175 - 02/49
Jimmy Bivins KO 8 - (7+) - Hvy - 05/49
Harold Johnson UD 10 - (10) - 175 - 06/49
Clinton Bacon DQ by 6 - (UR) - 175 - 07/49
Leonard Morrow KO 10 - (3) - 175 - 01/50
Bert Lytell UD 10 - (5) - 175 - 03/50
Karel Sys D 12 - (UR+) - Hvy - 08/51
Harold Johnson UD 10 - (7) - 175 - 11/51
Harold Johnson L 10 - (5) - 175 - 01/52
Harold Johnson UD 10 - (3) - 175 - 03/52
Jimmy Slade UD 10 - (10) - 175 - 04/52
Bob Dunlop KO 6 - (7+) - Hvy - 07/52
Clarence Henry UD 10 - (5+) - Hvy - 08/52
Joey Maxim UD 15* - (C) - 175 - 01/53
Joey Maxim UD 15 - (1) - 175 - 08/53
Joey Maxim UD 15 - (2) - 175 - 03/54
Harold Johnson TKO 14 - (1) - 175 - 09/54
Nino Valdes W 15 - (1+) - Hvy - 06/55
Bobo Olson KO 3 - (C) - 160 - 07/55
Rocky Marciano KO by 9 - (C) - Hvy - 11/55
Yolande Pompey TKO 10 - (1) - 175 - 07/56
Floyd Patterson KO by 5* - (2) - Hvy - 01/57
Tony Anthony KO7 - (2) - 175 - 10/57
Howard King D10 - (UR) - Hvy - 09/58
Yvon Durelle KO11 - (3) - 175 - 01/59
Yvon Durelle KO 3 - (1) - 175 - 09/59
Giulio Rinaldi L 10 - (5) - 175 - 12/60
Giulio Rinaldi UD 15 - (2) - 175 - 07/61
Alejandro Lavorante TKO 10 - (6+) - Hvy - 05/62
Willie Pastrano D 10 - (UR) - Hvy - 07/62
Muhammad Ali TKO by 4 - (7) - Hvy - 12/62

#11 JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ



- **CAREER RECORD:** 107-6-2 (85 KOS, 4 KOBY)
- **FIRST RING RANKING:** NO. 7 JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT (AUGUST 1984)
- **LAST RING RANKING:** NO. 6 JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT (HOLIDAY 1999)
- **RECORD VS. RING-RATED OPPONENTS:** 23-4-2 (14 KOS, 2 KOBY)
- **OVERALL SCORE RANK:** 11
- **PEAK SCORE RANK:** T-10
- **WIN TOTAL RANK:** 24
- **RING MAGAZINE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** LIGHTWEIGHT (1988-89)

"El Gran Campeon Mexicano" tore through three weight divisions, officially unbeaten in his first 90 professional starts. Chavez's first top 10 win was also his first WBC title win just months after entering the rankings at junior lightweight. Chavez would post a mark of 8-0 against the rankings, seven of those wins against top 10 junior lightweights, before moving up the scale. Chavez added a pair of notable wins at lightweight. The first, a battering of Edwin Rosario for a WBA belt, may have been Chavez's finest performance. Chavez won recognition from Ring as champion after a decision over Jose Luis Ramirez. Chavez's most dominant run was arguably yet to come.

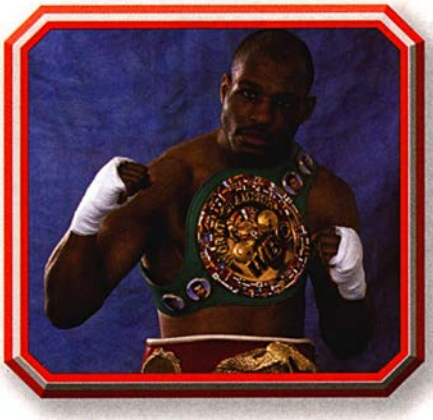
Chavez was 62-0 when he challenged Roger Mayweather for a WBC title at junior welterweight in May 1989. From that win to Chavez's first loss to Frankie Randall in January 1994, Chavez went 27-0-1 and bested nine ranked opponents, eight of them ranked junior welterweights. The only blemish was in a draw challenging Pernell Whitaker for the welterweight crown. After regaining the title from Randall in 1994, Chavez would add three more top 10 wins before losing to Oscar De La Hoya to end his time as a champion.

MISSING QUALITY: Fortune and policy might have been all that stood between Chavez holding three Ring championships instead of just one. Rocky Lockridge lost a widely disputed decision against Wilfredo Gomez for the WBA and Ring titles shortly before his loss to Chavez. Assuming everything else unfolds the same way, Chavez could have won Ring's title from Lockridge in 1986. One doesn't have to make assumptions about junior welterweight. Chavez's first win over Meldrick Taylor came with them ranked Nos. 1 and 2 in the division. Under current standards, and most occasions prior to that, Chavez's last second stoppage would have earned a third divisional crown from Ring.

SCORING RESULTS:

Mario Martinez TKO 8 - (1) - 130 - 10/84
Ruben Castillo TKO 6 - (9-) - 126 - 06/85
Roger Mayweather TKO 2 - (3) - 130 - 08/85
Dwight Pratchett UD 12 - (9) - 130 - 11/85
Refugio Rojas TKO 7 - (9-) - 126 - 08/86
Rocky Lockridge MD 12 - (2) - 130 - 09/86
Juan LaPorte UD 12 - (3) - 130 - 03/87
Francisco Tomas Cruz *TKO 3 - (8) - 130 - KO Mag 08/87*
Edwin Rosario TKO 11 - (1) - 135 - 02/88
Jose Luis Ramirez TD 11* - (4) - 135 - 01/89
Roger Mayweather *RTD 10 - (2) - 140 - KO Mag 08/89*
Sammy Fuentes RTD 10 - (5) - 140 - 02/90
Meldrick Taylor TKO 12 - (2) - 140 - 07/90
John Duplessis TKO 4 - (9) - 140 - 06/91
Lonnie Smith UD 12 - (6+) - 147 - 12/91
Frankie Mitchell TKO 4 - (8-) - 135 - 11/92
Hector Camacho UD 12 - (7) - 140 - 12/92
Greg Haugen TKO 5 - (9) - 140 - 06/93
Terrence Alli TKO 6 - (3) - 140 - 08/93
Pernell Whitaker D 12 - (1+) - 147 - 12/93
Frankie Randall L 12 - (UR) - 140 - 04/94
Frankie Randall TD 8 - (1) - 140 - 08/94
Tony Lopez TKO 10 - (6) - 140 - 03/95
Giovanni Parisi UD 12 - (7) - 140 - 07/95
David Kamau UD 12 - (6) - 140 - W/95
Oscar De La Hoya TKO by 4 - (4) - 140 - 09/96
Miguel Angel Gonzalez D 12 - (4) - 140 - 06/98
Oscar De La Hoya RTD by 8 - (1) - 147 - Holiday/98
Willy Wise L 10 - (UR) - 140 - Holiday/99

#12 BERNARD HOPKINS



- **CAREER RECORD:** 55-8-2 (32 KOS, 1 KOBY)
- **FIRST RING RANKING:** NO. 8 MIDDLEWEIGHT (JUNE 1992)
- **LAST RING RANKING:** NO. 3 LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT (DECEMBER 2016)
- **RECORD VS. RING-RATED OPPONENTS:** 20-6-2, 1 NO CONTEST (8 KOS)
- **OVERALL SCORE RANK:** 7
- **PEAK SCORE RANK:** T-10
- **WIN TOTAL RANK:** 31
- **RING MAGAZINE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** MIDDLEWEIGHT (2001-05), LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT (2006-08, 2011-12)

Boxing's most recent ageless wonder was unbeaten at middleweight for over 12 years, retaining the IBF title 20 times (including one no-contest) and becoming the first man to hold IBF, WBA, WBC and WBO titles simultaneously. Hopkins' first title opportunity versus Roy Jones Jr. would be his only defeat at middleweight over the first 17 years of his career, but it wouldn't be until his third chance that he broke through to the title ranks with a knockout of Segundo Mercado. Including the Mercado win, Hopkins had 13 victories over top 10 middleweights before finally losing his spot in the division to Jermain Taylor. Of those 13 victories, two came against No. 1 contenders, while Felix Trinidad entered ranked No. 2 when they competed in the finals of the 2001 middleweight unification tournament. The Trinidad win retroactively filled the vacant Ring championship when Ring reinstated their championship policy.

The middleweight run of Hopkins would have cracked this top 100 on its own, but it is the remarkable run at light heavyweight in his 40s that elevated him to these final heights. Hopkins would add five wins against champions and contenders in the division, along with wins over then-middleweight champion Kelly Pavlik and leading middleweight contender Winky Wright. At 41, Hopkins thoroughly defeated Antonio Tarver for his first Ring title at light heavyweight and regained the title in a second fight with Jean Pascal at age 46. The Pascal win made Hopkins the oldest to win the Ring and lineal world champion in history.

After losing the world championship to Chad Dawson, Hopkins won two more sanctioning body titles at 48 and 49, the latter victory unifying the WBA and IBF belts. Of Hopkins' six losses during his years in the rankings, none came to a fighter outside the top five. Hopkins exited the rankings for the last time due to inactivity in 2016 but returned to the ring one last time a few months later and was knocked out at age 51 by Joe Smith Jr., who was ranked seventh.

MISSING QUALITY: While the record for consecutive defenses of the lineal or Ring Magazine championship at middleweight remains with Carlos Monzon, Hopkins' retention of the IBF belt 20 times stands as the most for any version of the division's world titles. It still didn't capture every fight against a notable name. A no-contest against Robert Allen came before Allen entered The Ring's top 10. Hopkins handed future light heavyweight champion Glen Johnson, then unranked, his first defeat in 1997; it was the only stoppage loss from Johnson's debut in 1993 until a second stoppage loss in 2014. Hopkins also missed some sort of credit for a rematch victory over Roy Jones in 2010. Jones had exited the rankings following a defeat in his previous fight.

SCORING RESULTS:

Roy Jones Jr. L 12 - (3) - 160 - 09/93
Segundo Mercado D 12 - (UR) - 160 - 03/95
Segundo Mercado TKO 7 - (7) - 160 - 08/95
Joe Lipsey KO 4 - (8) - 160 - 06/96
John David Jackson TKO 7 - (8) - 160 - 08/97
Robert Allen TKO 7 - (7) - 160 - 05/99
Antwun Echols UD 12 - (5) - 160 - 03/00
Antwun Echols TKO 10 - (4) - 160 - 03/01
Keith Holmes UD 12 - (3) - 160 - 08/01
Felix Trinidad TKO 12* - (2) - 160 - 01/02
Carl Daniels RTD 10 - (8) - 160 - 06/02
William Joppy UD 12 - (1) - 160 - 04/04
Robert Allen UD 12 - (2) - 160 - Vol. VI/04
Oscar De La Hoya KO 9 - (2) - 160 - 12/04
Howard Eastman UD 12 - (1) - 160 - 06/05
Jermain Taylor L 12* - (5) - 160 - 10/05
Jermain Taylor L 12 - (C) - 160 - 03/06
Antonio Tarver UD 12* - (C++) - 175 - 09/06
Winky Wright UD 12 - (1--) - 160 - 10/07
Joe Calzaghe L 12* - (C-) - 168 - 07/08
Kelly Pavlik UD 12 - (C--) - 160 - 12/08
Jean Pascal D 12 - (C) - 175 - 02/11
Jean Pascal UD 12* - (C) - 175 - 07/11
Chad Dawson NC 2 - (3) - 175 - 12/11
Chad Dawson L 12* - (2) - 175 - 07/12
Tavoris Cloud UD 12 - (2) - 175 - 05/13
Karo Murat UD 12 - (6) - 175 - 01/14
Beibut Shumenov SD 12 - (4) - 175 - 06/14
Sergey Kovalev L 12 - (2) - 175 - 01/15

#13 JIMMY MCLARNIN

- **CAREER RECORD:** 55-11-3 (21 KOS, 1 KOBY)
- **FIRST RING RANKING:** NO. 3 FEATHERWEIGHT (FEBRUARY 1926)
- **LAST RING RANKING:** NO. 2 WELTERWEIGHT (AUGUST 1937)
- **RECORD VS. RING-RATED OPPONENTS:** 22-10-1 (8 KOS, 1 KOBY)
- **OVERALL SCORE RANK:** 10
- **PEAK SCORE RANK:** 15
- **WIN TOTAL RANK:** 26
- **RING MAGAZINE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** WELTERWEIGHT (1933-34, 1934-45)

Born in Ireland and raised in Canada, the "Belfast Spider" battled the best of his time from featherweight to welterweight. McLarnin would earn the No. 1 contender spot at lightweight in seven of eight issues from April 1928 to November 1928, losing in a title bid versus Sammy Mandell. McLarnin again rose to No. 1 contender at junior welterweight from the February to July 1929 issues before settling at welterweight for good. McLarnin would rank as high as No. 1 and no lower than No. 5 over close to four years before scoring a knockout of Young Corbett III for the welterweight crown in May 1933.

McLarnin would hold the welterweight title twice but never successfully defended it, instead trading it back and forth with Barney Ross over three memorable fights. Ross-McLarnin was just one piece of a four-way, 14-fight rivalry also co-starring Tony Canzoneri and Billy Petrolle. McLarnin would feature in eight of those fights, winning four. During his time in the rankings, McLarnin would post more than a dozen wins over champions or fighters ranked No. 1 at flyweight, lightweight, junior welterweight and welterweight.

MISSING QUALITY: The second defeat versus Ross was technically a loss to an unranked fighter but was not counted as such here. At the time, The Ring avoided ranking fighters in more than one weight division. Despite being a former welterweight champion, when Ross' recognition as lightweight champion ended in the June 1935 issue he was removed from the rankings just prior to the McLarnin fight. In the spirit of the study, the scoring of that loss for McLarnin reverted to the ranking in the June issue. There were some other big-name moments early in McLarnin's career. McLarnin's scoring didn't include anything in the first half of 1926 or any of 1925, missing a loss to Bud Taylor and a three-fight series with Fidel LaBarba won 2-0-1 by McLarnin before LaBarba entered the rankings at flyweight. McLarnin also defeated future welterweight champion Jackie Fields in 1926 in Fields' professional infancy.

SCORING RESULTS:

Pancho Villa W 10 - (1--) - 112 - 02/25
[Bud Taylor DQ 2 - (3-) - 118
Bud Taylor L 10 - (3-) - 118
Johnny Farr L 10 - (UR) - 126 - 02/26]
[Joe Glick W 10 - (6) - 130
Doc Snell L 10 - (UR) - 130
Tommy Cello D 10 - (UR) - 135 - 02/27]
[Louis Kaplan KO 8 - (7) - 135
Billy Wallace W 10 - (4) - 135 - 02/28]
Sid Terris KO 1 - (1) - 135 - 03/28
Sammy Mandell L 15 - (C) - 135 - 06/28
Stanislaus Loayza KO 4 - (3) - 135 - 09/28
Ray Miller RTD by 7 (UR-) - 135 - 12/28
Joe Glick UD 10 - (3-) - 135 - 02/29
[Joe Glick KO 2 - (2-) - 135
Ray Miller UD 10 - (1-) - 135 - 04/29]
Sammy Mandell SD 10 - (C--) - 135 - 12/29
Ruby Goldstein KO 2 - (1-) - 140 - 01/30
Sammy Mandell UD 10 - (C--) - 135 - 04/30
Young Jack Thompson UD 10 - (7) - 147 - 05/30
Al Singer KO 3 (C--) - 135 - 10/30
Billy Petrolle L 10 - (4--) - 135 - 12/30
Billy Petrolle UD 10 - (1--) - 135 - 07/31
Billy Petrolle UD 10 - (1--) - 135 - 09/31
Lou Brouillard L 10 - (5) - 147 - 09/32
Sammy Fuller KO 8 - (2--) - 135 - 01/33
Young Corbett III TKO 1* - (C) - 147 - 06/33
Barney Ross L 15* - (C-) - 135 - 07/34
Barney Ross SD 15* - (C) - 147 - 10/34
Barney Ross L 15* - (C-) - 135 - 06/35
Tony Canzoneri L 10 - (C-) - 135 - 06/36
Tony Canzoneri UD 10 - (1-) - 135 - 11/36
Lou Ambers UD 10 - (C-) - 135 - 01/37

#14 ROY JONES JR.

- **CAREER RECORD:** 66-9 (47 KOS, 5 KOBY)
- **FIRST RING RANKING:** NO. 8 MIDDLEWEIGHT (FEBRUARY 1992)
- **LAST RING RANKING:** NO. 5 LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT (FEBRUARY 2010)
- **RECORD VS. RING-RATED OPPONENTS:** 23-6 (13 KOS, 3 KOBY)
- **OVERALL SCORE RANK:** 18
- **PEAK SCORE RANK:** 13
- **WIN TOTAL RANK:** 25
- **RING MAGAZINE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT (2001-04)

Scandalously denied a gold medal at the 1988 Olympics, Jones combined eye-popping speed, reflexes and power into a package that had some wondering if Jones was the best fighter since Robinson. Jones would achieve rankings and sanctioning body titles in four weight classes, reaching No. 1 in the first two and recognition as the champion of the third. At his peak, Jones seldom lost a round. He was 23-1 against Ring-ranked opposition after he beat Antonio Tarver. The lone blemish, by disqualification to Montell Griffin, was rectified in a single round.

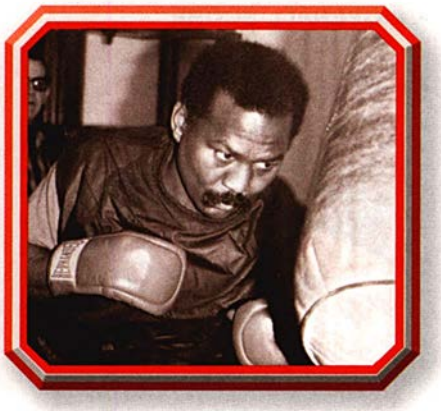
In those 23 wins, Jones defeated one No. 1-ranked fighter at super middleweight (James Toney) and one at light heavyweight (Tarver). From the November 1997 to November 2002 issues of The Ring, the top two at light heavyweight were Jones and Dariusz Michalczewski. While they never squared off, Jones defeated three third-ranked fighters during those five years and held a 9-3 advantage in terms of wins against Ring-ranked light heavyweights, including defeating the man who would go on to hand Michalczewski his first loss, Julio Gonzalez. Overall, 11 of Jones' 23 ranked wins came against men ranked in the top five of their weight class when Jones defeated them.

MISSING QUALITY: Several fighters missed out on Ring championships because of the editorial standards in the 1990s; it worked to the benefit of Jones. The 1996 light heavyweight contest between Henry Maske and Virgil Hill was a 1 vs. 2 match and likely would have filled a vacancy in most other eras (and then ended up with Michalczewski). The Ring opted against retroactive designations when it resumed naming single champions again in late 2001 and recognized anyone then holding unified IBF, WBA and WBC belts. It's why there is an asterisk next to Jones' win over Reggie Johnson as the win that crowned Jones. Jones defeated some notable names unranked at the time he defeated them. Thulani Malinga and Eric Lucas went on to win titles after losses to Jones, while Jeff Lacy and Felix Trinidad were past their time in the rankings when Jones beat both.

SCORING RESULTS:

Jorge Vaca KO 1 - (8-) - 154 - 04/92
Jorge Castro UD 10 - (8-) - 154 - 10/92
Bernard Hopkins UD 12 - (6) - 160 - 09/93
Thomas Tate TKO 2 - (5) - 160 - 09/94
James Toney UD 12 - (1+) - 168 - 02/95
Vinny Pazienza TKO 6 - (6) - 168 - 10/95
Tony Thornton TKO 3 - (8) - 168 - Winter/1995
Merqui Sosa TKO 2 - (5+) - 175 - 04/96
Bryant Brannon TKO 2 - (7) - 168 - Holiday/1996
Mike McCallum UD 12 - (7+) - 175 - 02/97
Montell Griffin DQ by 9 - (3) - 175 - 06/97
Montell Griffin KO 1 - (3) - 175 - 12/97
Virgil Hill KO 4 - (4) - 175 - 07/98
Lou Del Valle UD 12 - (5) - 175 - 10/98
Otis Grant TKO 10 - (4--) - 160 - 02/99
Reggie Johnson UD 12* - (3) - 175 - 09/99
David Telesco UD 12 - (9) - 175 - 04/00
Richard Hall TKO 11 - (10) - 175 - 07/00
Eric Harding RTD 10 - (3) - 175 - 12/00
Derrick Harmon RTD 10 - (10) - 175 - 06/01
Julio Gonzalez UD 12 - (7) - 175 - 11/01
Clinton Woods TKO 6 - (10) - 175 - 12/02
John Ruiz UD 12 - (5++) - Hvy - 06/03
Antonio Tarver MD 12 - (1) - 175 - 03/04
Antonio Tarver TKO by 2* - (1) - 175 - 09/04
Glen Johnson KO by 9 - (3) - 175 - VII/04
Antonio Tarver L 12 - (C) - 175 - VVI/05
Joe Calzaghe L 12 - (C) - 175 - 01/09
Danny Green TKO by 1 - (UR+) - Cruiser - 02/10

#15 JOSE NAPOLES



- **CAREER RECORD:** 81-7 (54 KOS, 4 KOBY)
- **FIRST RING RANKING:** NO. 10 JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT (MARCH 1963)
- **LAST RING RANKING:** NO. 6 WELTERWEIGHT (SEPTEMBER 1976)
- **RECORD VS. RING-RATED OPPONENTS:** 20-6 (13 KOS, 4 KOBY)
- **OVERALL SCORE RANK:** 14
- **PEAK SCORE RANK:** 16
- **WIN TOTAL RANK:** 32
- **RING MAGAZINE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** WELTERWEIGHT (1969-70, 71-75)

Adopted by Mexico, Cuba's Napoles was a staple of The Ring's junior welterweight rankings in the 1960s before embarking on one of the great welterweight runs. From the July 1964 to September 1966 issues, Napoles would be ranked No. 1 at junior welterweight for stretches of nine issues twice and was no lower than second during the span, but he never received a title shot. Napoles' chance would come one division higher and he made the most of it, stopping Curtis Cokes to begin the first of two reigns over the next six years, interrupted only by a loss on a cut to Billy Backus.

Over the years Napoles could be found in the Ring rankings, he defeated six men recognized as champion or ranked No. 1 in their division. In 13 successful title defenses across his two reigns at welterweight, 12 came against Ring-ranked opponents, including former welterweight and middleweight champion Emile Griffith.

Napoles was a road warrior as champion, defending in Canada, France and the U.K. along with several appearances in New York, Los Angeles and Mexico. The only decisive loss Napoles took during his championship years before losing the title to John Stracey was in an ill-fated challenge of middleweight king Carlos Monzon.

MISSING QUALITY: The only welterweight challenger to Napoles who was unranked by The Ring was Ralph Charles. Charles had been ranked for the first half of 1971 on the strength of a win over contender Johann Orsolics but slipped out of the top 10 after a loss to Roger Menetrey. Charles won two straight prior to facing Napoles. Napoles defeated a young Bunny Grant, who would go on to be a staple of the 1960s lightweight rankings, but the win was a couple years too early for credit here. Notably, while Napoles lost to L.C. Morgan on cuts in 1966, he won the other three of their four fights by knockout.

SCORING RESULTS:

Tony Perez L 10 - (UR) - 140 - 02/63
Alfredo Urbina L 10 - (5-) - 135 - 06/63
Alfredo Urbina TKO 1 - (3-) - 135 - 06/64
Carlos Hernandez TKO 7 - (3-) - 135 - 08/64
Eddie Perkins UD 10 - (1) - 140 - 09/65
Adolph Pruitt TKO 3 - (2) - 140 - 01/66
Johnny Santos KO 3 - (6) - 140 - 02/66
LC Morgan TKO by 4 - (UR) - 147 - 02/67
Eugenio Espinoza TKO 6 - (4) - 140 - 02/67
Curtis Cokes RTD 13* - (C) - 147 - 06/69
Curtis Cokes RTD 10 - (1) - 147 - 08/69
Emile Griffith UD 15 - (3+) - 160 - 12/69
Ernie Lopez TKO 15 - (2) - 147 - 04/70
Pete Toro TKO 9 - (9) - 147 - 11/70
Billy Backus TKO by 4* - (2) - 147 - 01/71
Billy Backus TKO 8* - (C) - 147 - 07/71
Hedgemon Lewis UD 15 - (5) - 147 - 01/72
Adolph Pruitt TKO 2 - (1) - 147 - 08/72
Ernie Lopez KO 7 - (4) - 147 - 05/73
Roger Menetrey UD 15 - (2) - 147 - 08/73
Clyde Gray UD 15 - (1) - 147 - 11/73
Carlos Monzon RTD by 6 - (C+) - 160 - 03/74
Hedgemon Lewis TKO 9 - (2) - 147 - 10/74
Armando Muniz TD 12 - (5) - 147 - 05/75
Armando Muniz UD 15 - (4) - 147 - 09/75
John Stracey TKO by 6* - (4) - 147 - 02/76

#16 PERNELL WHITAKER

- **CAREER RECORD:** 40-4-1, 1 NO CONTEST (17 KOS, 1 KOBY)
- **FIRST RING RANKING:** NO. 9 LIGHTWEIGHT (FEBRUARY 1987)
- **LAST RING RANKING:** NO. 5 WELTERWEIGHT (MAY 2000)
- **RECORD VS. RING-RATED OPPONENTS:** 17-3-1, 1 NO CONTEST (3 KOS)
- **OVERALL SCORE RANK:** 9
- **PEAK SCORE RANK:** 12
- **WIN TOTAL RANK:** 48
- **RING MAGAZINE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** NONE (SEE MISSING QUALITY)

A gold medalist on the storied 1984 U.S. Olympic team, "Sweet Pea" wasted little time with prospect fare as a young lightweight. Alfredo Layne, his first ranked opponent, came in Whitaker's 11th start. Whitaker climbed to The Ring's No. 1 contender spot in the March 1989 issue on the eve of his rematch with Jose Luis Ramirez and stayed No. 1 until his exit from the division in 1992. Whitaker was 10-1 against ranked opposition in his lightweight years, 8-0 against ranked lightweights, with a win over leading junior lightweight Azumah Nelson. Whitaker unified the IBF, WBA and WBC belts at lightweight with a 9-1 record in title fights.

Whitaker's record wasn't quite as deep above lightweight, but he continued to add quality. His stint at junior welterweight was brief before a four-year run at the top of the welterweight division. Whitaker was 5-0 against ranked welterweights, including his WBC title win over Buddy McGirt prior to his 1997 loss to Oscar De La Hoya. Along with those wins, Whitaker earned an official draw against the leading junior welterweight, Julio Cesar Chavez, as well as a decision over The Ring's top-rated junior middleweight, Julio Cesar Vasquez. The Vasquez win gave Whitaker sanctioning body titles in four weight classes. Whitaker faced ranked opposition in 20 of his final 35 fights.

MISSING QUALITY: The big stories of Whitaker's career, affecting his outcome here, are wins many believe were taken from him. The loss to Ramirez in his first title opportunity and infamous draw versus Chavez, arguably Whitaker's finest hour, remain controversial. In contrast, there are those who think Whitaker got some benefit of the doubt in the first fight with Wilfredo Rivera. Whitaker could have had two Ring championships. Whitaker-Ramirez II was a 1 vs. 2 fight in the ownership transition of The Ring that ended title recognition. The magazine did distinguish Whitaker as "World Champ" following the knockout of Nazario. McGirt was the champion in direct succession to Donald Curry's unification and would have been The Ring's champion in 1993. Finally, Whitaker defeated an unranked Roger Mayweather in 1987, notable as Mayweather would return to the rankings at junior welterweight shortly afterward. Mayweather's final ranking wouldn't come until 1993.

SCORING RESULTS:

Alfredo Layne UD 10 - (4-) - 130 - 12/86
Jose Luis Ramirez L 12 - (4) - 135 - 06/88
Greg Haugen UD 12 - (1) - 135 - 03/89
Louie Lomeli *TKO 3 - (7) - 135 - KO Mag 08/89*
Jose Luis Ramirez UD 12 - (2) - 135 - 05/89
Freddie Pendleton UD 12 - (4) - 135 - 05/90
Azumah Nelson UD 12 - (1-) - 130 - 09/90
Juan Nazario KO 1 - (2) - 135 - 11/90
Anthony Jones UD 12 - (6) - 135 - 06/91
Poli Diaz UD 12 - (6) - 135 - 11/91
Jorge Paez UD 12 - (3) - 135 - 01/92
Rafael Pineda UD 12 - (3) - 140 - 11/92
Buddy McGirt UD 12 - (1) - 147 - 06/93
Julio Cesar Chavez D 12 - (1-) - 140 - 12/93
Buddy McGirt UD 12 - (4) - 147 - Winter/94
Julio Cesar Vasquez UD 12 - (1+) - 154 - 06/95
Jake Rodriguez KO 6 - (6-) - 140 - 02/96
Wilfredo Rivera SD 12 - (7) - 147 - 07/96
Wilfredo Rivera UD 12 - (6) - 147 - Holiday/96
Oscar De La Hoya L 12 - (1-) - 140 - 07/97
Andrei Pastraev NC 12 - (10) - 147 - 01/98
Felix Trinidad L 12 - (2) - 147 - 05/99

#17 HENRY ARMSTRONG

- **CAREER RECORD:** 149-21-10 (99 KOS, 2 KOBY)
- **FIRST RING RANKING:** NO. 8 FEATHERWEIGHT (JANUARY 1935)
- **LAST RING RANKING:** NO. 7 WELTERWEIGHT (JUNE 1945)
- **RECORD VS. RING-RATED OPPONENTS:** 33-17-4 (15 KOS, 1 KOBY)
- **OVERALL SCORE RANK:** 41
- **PEAK SCORE RANK:** 22
- **WIN TOTAL RANK:** 7
- **RING MAGAZINE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** FEATHERWEIGHT (1937-38), LIGHTWEIGHT (1938-39), WELTERWEIGHT (1938-40)

Armstrong's signature feat remains the stuff of legend and endures as arguably the greatest accomplishment in boxing history. In just 10 months, Armstrong won the featherweight crown from Petey Sarron, jumped up two weight classes to take the welterweight crown from Barney Ross and then captured the lightweight crown from Lou Ambers. The sequence of events only adds to the mystique. On the way there, Armstrong earned the No. 1 contender spot at featherweight from the October 1936 to August 1937 issues before moving into the lightweight rankings for a few months as the No. 2 contender before the Sarron fight.

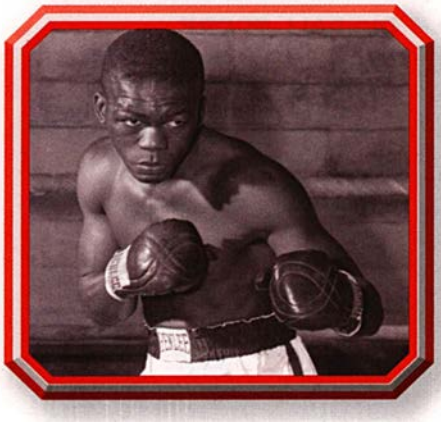
Armstrong wasn't unbeatable throughout all of the 10 years he spent in the Ring rankings, but there was a period of time where he looked like it. From the beginning of 1937 until he lost the welterweight title to Fritzie Zivic in 1940, Armstrong went 59-1-1. The lone loss in the stretch, to Ambers in their lightweight title rematch, was decided on point deductions that cost Armstrong five rounds in a fight he otherwise likely would've won. The draw came in a challenge of Ceferino Garcia for a version of the middleweight crown. Sixteen of the 59 wins came against Ring-ranked opposition along with a record 19 consecutive defenses of the welterweight crown. While Armstrong is often recalled as past it after the two losses to Zivic, he still managed 10 additional wins against ranked opposition, including wins over Zivic, Willie Joyce and Sammy Angott with several months here and there as the No. 1 welterweight contender as late as the November 1944 issue.

MISSING QUALITY: The volume of fights in Armstrong's era could sometimes stimulate dramatic shifts in the top 10 from issue to issue. For instance, he stopped Pedro Montanez in a January 1940 welterweight title defense. Montanez came into the fight 24-1-1 in his previous 26 with his lone loss on a cut stoppage to Davey Day. Montanez won three in a row to set up the shot at Armstrong, and yet Montanez was unranked in the issue prior to the fight. Montanez was fifth at welterweight in the January 1940 issue but slipped out of the top 10 in the monthly ratings in the February issue (despite being ranked fifth in the yearly annual rankings in the same issue). Montanez returned to the top 10 in the March issue after the loss. As this study is based on monthly rankings first in the years that had them and this wasn't the same as the Ross-McLarnin situation, the win wasn't counted. But it merits mention as one of the best wins of Armstrong's reign.

SCORING RESULTS:

Baby Arizmendi L 12 - (1) - 126 - 12/34
Joe Conde TKO 7 - (6) - 126 - 01/35
Baby Arizmendi L 12 - (1) - 126 - 02/35
Rodolfo Casanova DQ by 5 - (UR) - 126 - 04/35
Davey Abad L 10 - (UR+) - 135 - 05/35
Frankie Covelli W 8 - (10) - 126 - 06/35
Perfecto Lopez D 8 - (UR) - 126 - 11/35
Midget Wolgast W 10 - (5) - 126 - 01/36
Joe Conde L 10 - (UR) - 126 - 02/36
Richie Fontaine L 10 - (UR+) - 135 - 04/36
Bobby Leyvas TKO 4 - (4-) - 118 - 07/36
Baby Arizmendi W 10 - (2) - 126 - 09/36
Juan Zurita KO 4 - (9) - 126 - 10/36
Mike Belloise W 10 - (2) - 126 - 12/36
Tony Chavez DQ by 8 - (7) - 126 - 01/37
Tony Chavez KO 10 - (6) - 126 - 03/37
[Mike Belloise TKO 4 - (4) - 126
Aldo Spoldi UD 10 - (8+) - 135
Pete DeGrasse KO 10 - (10) - 126 - 05/37]
Petey Sarron KO 6* - (C-) - 126 - 12/37
[Billy Beauhuld TKO 5 - (2+) - 135
Tony Chavez TKO 1 - (6) - 126 - 01/38]
Everett Rightmire TKO 3 - (3) - 126 - 04/38
Barney Ross UD 15* - (C++) - 147 - 07/38
Lou Ambers SD 15* - (C+/-) - 135 - 09/38
Ceferino Garcia UD 15 - (1) - 147 - 01/39
Baby Arizmendi W 10 - (4) -135 - 03/39
Davey Day TKO 12 - (3) - 135 - 05/39
Ernie Roderick W 15 - (2) - 147 - 07/39
Lou Ambers L 15* - (1) - 135 - 10/39
Ceferino Garcia D 10 - (1+) - 160 - 04/40
Paul Junior TKO 7 - (7-) - 135 - 06/40
Lew Jenkins TKO 6 - (C-) - 135 - 09/40
Fritzie Zivic L 15* - (3) - 147 - 11/40
Fritzie Zivic TKO by 12 - (C) - 147 - 03/41
Reuben Shank L 10 - (UR) - 147 - 08/42
Earl Turner KO 4 - (9) - 147 - 11/42
[Juan Zurita KO 2 - (4-) - 135,
Fritzie Zivic UD 10 - (2) - 147 - 12/42]
Willie Joyce L 10 - (5-) - 135 - 04/43
Beau Jack L 10 - (1-) - 135 - 05/43
Sammy Angott UD 10 - (3-) - 135 - 07/43
[Willie Joyce UD 10 - (5-) - 135
Jimmy Garrison W 10 - (7) - 147 - 09/43]
Sugar Ray Robinson L 10 - (1) - 147 - 10/43
[Frankie Wills UD 10 - (6) - 147
Ralph Zannelli UD 10 - (5) - 147 - 05/44]
John Thomas SD 10 - (7-) - 135 - 06/44
[Ralph Zannelli UD 10 - (9) - 147
Willie Joyce L 10 - (6-) - 135 - 07/44]
John Thomas L 10 - (8-) - 135 - 08/44
Slugger White D 10 - (UR) - 147 - 09/44
Chester Slider D 10 - (UR) - 147 - 03/45
Chester Slider L 10 - (7) - 147 - 04/45

#18 IKE WILLIAMS



- **CAREER RECORD:** 128-24-5 (61 KOS, 6 KOBY)
- **FIRST RING RANKING:** NO. 10 LIGHTWEIGHT (NOVEMBER 1943)
- **LAST RING RANKING:** NO. 5 LIGHTWEIGHT (NOVEMBER 1951)
- **RECORD VS. RING-RATED OPPONENTS:** 31-15-2 (16 KOS, 4 KOBY)
- **OVERALL SCORE RANK:** 43
- **PEAK SCORE RANK:** 19
- **WIN TOTAL RANK:** 10
- **RING MAGAZINE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** LIGHTWEIGHT (1947-51)

The best lightweight of the post-war years, Williams was a masterful boxer-puncher whose win-loss mark against ranked opposition makes a case for him as a great welterweight as well. Williams emerged as the best of a memorable trio, going 4-1-1 against Bob Montgomery and Beau Jack in a 10-fight round-robin stretching from 1943-55. The Ring's lightweight title had been vacant for almost five years following a brief retirement by Sammy Angott in 1942. Along the road to universal recognition as champion, Williams was 2-1 against an Angott later rated at welterweight and captured the NBA title from Juan Zurita in 1945 prior to a unification win over Montgomery, who was recognized as the world lightweight champion by the New York State Commission, in 1947.

Williams' success against welterweights plays into his finish here and is partly a product of The Ring's general resistance to ranking fighters in two weight classes at the time. Of the 31 identified wins against Ring-ranked fighters for Williams, 12 came against top 10 welterweights, including a narrow decision over future welterweight champion Kid Gavilan. Williams was one of the few to ever score a knockdown of Gavilan in the win. Williams notched three wins against No. 1-ranked opponents (two at lightweight, one at welterweight) and six more against opponents ranked No. 2 (three each at lightweight and welterweight).

MISSING QUALITY: As evidenced several times already in these pages, notable names don't always equate to ranked opponents. Beau Jack was unranked when Williams beat him in 1951, and the last two bouts with Jack in 1955, a win and draw, came after both had faded from the rankings. Johnny Bratton was only ranked prior to one of Williams' three wins over the talented welterweight. Gene Burton, who would be a ranked lightweight and welterweight in the late 1940s and early 1950s, was ranked in only one of his three fights with Williams. It was Williams' lone loss in the series, though their first fight came just a few bouts into Burton's career.

SCORING RESULTS:

Lefty LaChance KO 4 - (6-) - 126 - 11/43
Bob Montgomery KO by 12 - (3) - 135 - 03/44
Joey Peralta TKO 9 - (9) - 135 - 05/44
Sammy Angott SD 10 - (4+) - 147 - 07/44
Cleo Shans TKO 10 - (6) - 135 - 08/44
Sammy Angott SD 10 - (3+) - 147 - 10/44
Freddie Dawson KO 4 - (7) - 135 - 11/44
[Willie Joyce L 10 - (4) - 135
Lulu Constantino UD 10 - (9) - 135 - 01/45]
Willie Joyce UD 12 - (6) - 135 - 02/45
Willie Joyce L 12 - (6) - 135 - 04/45
Juan Zurita TKO 2 - (4) - 135 - 06/45
Willie Joyce L 10 - (3) - 135 - 07/45
Sammy Angott TKO by 6 - (UR+) - 147 - 11/45
Wesley Mouzon D 10 - (UR) - 135 - 01/46
Freddie Dawson D 10 - (10) - 135 - 03/46
Enrique Bolanos TKO 8 - (6) - 135 - 06/46
Ronnie James KO 9 - (10) - 135 - 10/46
Gene Burton L 10 - (UR) - 135 - 03/47
Juste Fontaine TKO 4 - (9) - 135 - 07/47
Tippy Larkin KO 4 - (2+) - 147 - 08/47
Bob Montgomery TKO 6* - (1) - 135 - 09/47
Tony Pellone UD 10 - (5+) - 147 - 01/48
Freddie Dawson MD 10 - (3) - 135 - 03/48
Kid Gavilan UD 10 - (2+) - 147 - 04/48
Rudy Cruz UD 10 - (2) - 135 - 06/48
Enrique Bolanos SD 15 - (1) - 135 - 07/48
Beau Jack TKO 6 - (5+) - 147 - 08/48
Jesse Flores TKO 10 - (2) - 135 - 11/48
Buddy Garcia TKO 1 - (9) - 135 - 12/48
Kid Gavilan L 10 - (1+) - 147 - 03/49
Kid Gavilan L 10 - (1+) - 147 - 05/49
Enrique Bolanos TKO 4 - (2) - 135 - 09/49
Freddie Dawson UD 15 - (2+) - 147 - 01/50
Johnny Bratton TKO 8 - (4+) - 147 - 03/50
Sonny Boy West KO 8 - (5) - 135 - 04/50
Lester Felton UD 10 - (1+) - 147 - 07/50
George Costner L 10 - (4+) - 147 - 08/50
Charley Salas L 10 - (UR+) - 147 - 09/50
[Charley Salas SD 10 - (6+) - 147
Joe Miceli L 10 - (UR+) - 147 - 11/50]
Joe Miceli SD 10 - (10+) - 147 - 01/51
Rudy Cruz UD 10 - (9) - 135 - 02/51
Joe Miceli L 10 - (7+) - 147 - 04/51
Fritzie Pruden UD 10 - (6+) - 147 - 05/51
Jimmy Carter TKO by 14* - (7) - 135 - 07/51
Don Williams L 10 - (UR+) - 147 - 09/51
Gil Turner TKO by 10 - (5+) - 147 - 10/51

#19 SUGAR RAY LEONARD

- **CAREER RECORD:** 36-3-1 (25 KOS, 1 KOBY)
- **FIRST RING RANKING:** NO. 8 WELTERWEIGHT (NOVEMBER 1978)
- **LAST RING RANKING:** NO. 2 JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT (MAY 1991)
- **RECORD VS. RING-RATED OPPONENTS:** 17-2-1 (12 KOS)
- **OVERALL SCORE RANK:** 12
- **PEAK SCORE RANK:** 18
- **WIN TOTAL RANK:** 49
- **RING MAGAZINE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** WELTERWEIGHT (1979-80, 1980-82), JR. MIDDLEWEIGHT (1981-82), MIDDLEWEIGHT (1987)

One of five gold medalists on the famed 1976 U.S. Olympic team, Leonard would develop into the biggest star of his time and the best of one of the toughest welterweight fields ever assembled. Blessed with speed, power and killer instinct, Leonard started to test contenders in his 14th bout. On the way to winning his first title, Leonard went 8-0 against opposition ranked from junior welterweight to middleweight. He handed Wilfred Benitez his first defeat for Ring and WBC honors, then later avenged his first loss to regain the welterweight title by forcing Roberto Duran to surrender in the storied "No Mas" fight. Prior to defeating Thomas Hearns in a welterweight unification bout, Leonard added a title in a second division, stopping the undefeated Ayub Kalule.

Leonard would defend only once after Hearns, against Bruce Finch in 1982, then retired following an eye injury. Had Leonard never competed again, his record would have shown a 14-1 mark against ranked opposition and championships in two weight classes.

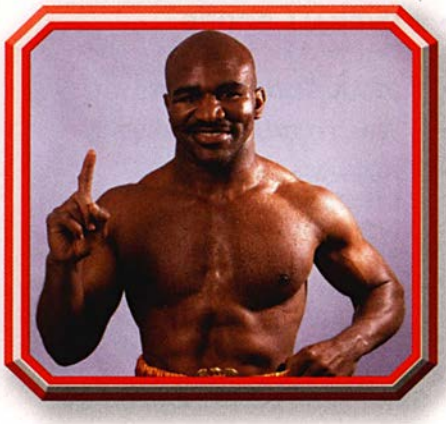
Leonard didn't stay retired. He would return only once between his win over Finch and 1987 upset of Marvin Hagler for the middleweight crown, then stayed active after that. Leonard added three more wins against ranked opposition, running his total to titles in five weight classes, before Terry Norris sent him into what looked like his last retirement.

MISSING QUALITY: It was not the last retirement and, while it didn't count against Leonard here, it is worth a footnote. When Hector Camacho became the only man to stop Leonard in 1997, The Ring ranked Camacho seventh at junior middleweight. In a 40-fight career, Leonard faced ranked opposition in 21 starts. With no opponents ranked before his fight with Floyd Mayweather Sr., it stands out as 21 of his last 27 opponents. Leonard was fortunate to get a draw in the rematch with Hearns and it boosted his score here, but not as much as it might have. Neither The Ring nor KO had a separate top 10 at super middleweight yet for that 1989 bout.

SCORING RESULTS:

Floyd Mayweather Sr. TKO 10 - (6) - 147 - 10/78
Randy Shields UD 10 - (4) - 147 - 12/78
Johnny Gant TKO 8 - (4) - 147 - 03/79
Adolfo Viruet UD 10 - (7-) - 140 - 06/79
Marcos Geraldo UD 10 - (5++) - 160 - 07/79
Tony Chiaverini RTD 4 - (4+) - 154 - 08/79
Pete Ranzany TKO 4 - (5) - 147 - 10/79
Andy Price KO 1 - (8) - 147 - 11/79
Wilfred Benitez TKO 15* - (C) - 147 - 01/80
Dave Green KO 4 - (7) - 147 - 05/80
Roberto Duran L 15* - (2) - 147 - 08/80
Roberto Duran TKO 8* - (C) - 147 - 01/81
Ayub Kalule TKO 9* - (C) - 154 - 08/81
Thomas Hearns TKO 14 - (1) - 147 - 10/81
Bruce Finch TKO 3 - (6) - 147 - 03/82
Marvelous Marvin Hagler SD 12* - (C) - 160 - 07/87
Donny LaLonde TKO 9 - (4++) - 175 - 02/89
Thomas Hearns D 12 - (5) - 160 - 05/89
Roberto Duran UD 12 - (2-) - 160 - 03/90
Terry Norris L 12 - (1) - 154 - 05/91

#20 EVANDER HOLYFIELD



- **CAREER RECORD:** 44-10-2, 1 NO CONTEST (29 KOS, 2 KOBY)
- **FIRST RING RANKING:** NO. 8 CRUISERWEIGHT (MARCH 1986)
- **LAST RING RANKING:** NO. 5 HEAVYWEIGHT (JANUARY 2004)
- **RECORD VS. RING-RATED OPPONENTS:** 18-7-2 (12 KOS, 2 KOBY)
- **OVERALL SCORE RANK:** 19
- **PEAK SCORE RANK:** 20
- **WIN TOTAL RANK:** 40
- **RING MAGAZINE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** NONE (SEE MISSING QUALITY)

Another member of the 1984 Olympic team, Holyfield settled for bronze before a decorated professional career in two weight classes. Holyfield's dominance of the cruiserweight division in the early part of his career helped legitimize the still-young division. Including supplemental ratings from KO magazine, Holyfield was 7-0 against ranked cruiserweights in his first 18 starts. This included one of boxing's last 15-round epics with Dwight Muhammad Qawi for Holyfield's first title.

With The Ring not recognizing the cruiserweight division after 1987, Holyfield rose to No. 2 in the heavyweight rankings in the September 1987 issue after adding his second cruiserweight belt against Rickey Parkey, ultimately unifying the division against Carlos De Leon. In the October 1988 issue, Holyfield became the No. 1 contender to Mike Tyson and remained ranked right behind the recognized champion until Tyson's shocking upset loss to Buster Douglas, after which Tyson became No. 1 and Holyfield was bumped down to No. 2.

The bump was no matter, as Holyfield assumed the top spot after taking the title from Douglas. Holyfield was 6-0 against ranked heavyweights and was No. 1 in the division when he suffered his first loss to Riddick Bowe. Holyfield resumed the top spot after winning the Bowe rematch and regained it again after the first defeat of Tyson in 1996. Holyfield would hold the top spot for the last time from the February 1997 to July 1999 issues, dropping to No. 2 after a controversial draw in the first Lennox Lewis fight. Altogether, Holyfield would feature in Ring's top 10 at heavyweight from the July 1987 to August 1994 issues and then again from the October 1995 to January 2004 issues. His mark against ranked opposition at heavyweight would end up at 11-7-2.

MISSING QUALITY: Changes in policy at The Ring cost Holyfield three Ring Magazine championships. The 1987 decision to revert to the "original eight" weight classes discontinued the magazine's recognition of De Leon before Holyfield got to him. Holyfield would have won Ring titles for the victories over Douglas and Bowe as well. His win over Tyson would not have; the man who beat the man would likely have been Foreman then (though current Ring rankings rules could have seen Foreman stripped). If it had been Foreman, Lewis would have been the defending Ring champion by the time of the Holyfield fights. The draw in the first Lewis fight, a decision Lewis appeared to deserve, gives a slight boost to Holyfield as the official outcome. Regardless, history recalls Holyfield as a three-time lineal champion in two weight classes, along with partial unification of belts in a third heavyweight title reign and an additional title after the loss to Lewis. While all would feature prominently in the rankings before or after facing Holyfield, Alex Stewart, Ray Mercer and John Ruiz were all unranked when Holyfield defeated them.

SCORING RESULTS:

Anthony Davis TKO 4 - (10) - Cruiser - 02/86
Dwight Muhammad Qawi SD 15 - (1) - Cruiser - 09/86
Henry Tillman TKO 7 - (5) - Cruiser - 05/87
Rickey Parkey *TKO 3 - (4) - Cruiser - KO Mag 09/87*
Ossie Ocasio *TKO 11 - (8) - Cruiser - KO Mag 11/87*
Dwight Muhammad Qawi *KO 4 - (2) - Cruiser - KO Mag 03/88*
Carlos De Leon *TKO 8 - (2) - Cruiser - KO Mag 07/88*
Pinklon Thomas RTD 7 - (10) - Hvy - 02/89
[Michael Dokes TKO 10 - (5) - Hvy
Adilson Rodrigues KO 2 - (3) - Hvy - 05/89]
Buster Douglas KO 3 - (1) - Hvy - 02/91
George Foreman UD 12 - (9) - Hvy - 07/91
Larry Holmes UD 12 - (4) - Hvy - 10/92
Riddick Bowe L 12 - (2) - Hvy - 02/93
Riddick Bowe MD 12 - (1) - Hvy - 02/94
Michael Moorer L 12 - (4) - Hvy - 08/94
Riddick Bowe TKO by 8 - (1) - Hvy - 01/96
Mike Tyson TKO 11 - (1) - Hvy - 01/97
Mike Tyson DQ 3 - (3) - Hvy - 10/97
Michael Moorer RTD 8 - (3) - Hvy - 02/98
Lennox Lewis D 12 - (2) - Hvy - 06/99
Lennox Lewis L 12 - (1) - Hvy - 02/00
John Ruiz L 12 - (UR) - Hvy - 06/01
John Ruiz D 12 - (5) - Hvy - 04/02
Hasim Rahman TD 8 - (4) - Hvy - 10/02
Chris Byrd L 12 - (2) - Hvy - 04/03
James Toney TKO by 9 - (1-) - Cruiser - 01/04

#21 CARLOS ORTIZ

- **CAREER RECORD:** 61-7-1 (30 KOS, 1 KOBY)
- **FIRST RING RANKING:** NO. 8 LIGHTWEIGHT (JULY 1958)
- **LAST RING RANKING:** NO. 9 JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT (NOVEMBER 1972)
- **RECORD VS. RING-RATED OPPONENTS:** 20-7-1 (9 KOS, 1 KOBY)
- **OVERALL SCORE RANK:** 21
- **PEAK SCORE RANK:** 26
- **WIN TOTAL RANK:** 33
- **RING MAGAZINE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** LIGHTWEIGHT (1962-65, 1965-68)

Hailing from Puerto Rico, Ortiz was the dominant lightweight of the 1960s with nine title defenses across two title reigns. A talented, strong boxer with an excellent chin, Ortiz was ranked no lower than second in the top 10 from the January 1959 to July 1962 editions and was 7-4 against opposition ranked at lightweight and welterweight when he ended the almost six-year reign of Joe Brown in April 1962. From his second loss to Duilio Loi at junior welterweight in 1961 until losing his first lightweight title to Ismael Laguna in 1965, Ortiz went 12-0 with six wins against ranked opponents in title and non-title affairs.

Ortiz regained the title from Laguna in his next fight and went 5-0-1 in the following six before losing the crown to Carlos Teo Cruz. From the Laguna rematch win to the Cruz defeat, Ortiz faced only one unranked opponent and won a rubber match with Laguna.

Ortiz defeated three No. 1 contenders and was 4-0 against reigning world champions, including two stoppages of junior lightweight champion Flash Elorde. Ortiz successfully defended the lightweight title against Elorde in each of his lightweight title reigns. Ortiz launched a comeback in 1971 and won nine in a row before suffering the lone stoppage loss of his career to former lightweight champion Ken Buchanan.

MISSING QUALITY: The Ring didn't resume recognition of the junior welterweight division until 1962 but the division was reborn competitively a few years earlier. Ortiz's 1959 win over Kenny Lane filled the long vacant title and Ortiz retained it twice before losing it to Loi. As Ring didn't recognize junior welterweight yet in 1960, it counts here as a loss to a rated welterweight. Ortiz's win over Loi is uncredited with Loi unranked for that fight. History rightly recalls Ortiz as a three-time world champion.

SCORING RESULTS:

Joey Lopes UD 10 - (4) - 135 - 06/58
Johnny Busso L 10 - (10) - 135 - 08/58
Johnny Busso UD 10 - (5) - 135 - 11/58
Dave Charnley W 10 - (3) - 135 - 12/58
Kenny Lane L 10 - (1) - 135 - 02/59
Kenny Lane TKO 2 - (1) - 135 - 07/59
Battling Torres KO 10 - (4) - 135 - 03/60
Duilio Loi L 15 - (8+) - 147 - 10/60
Duilio Loi L 15 - (6+) - 147 - 06/61
Douglas Vaillant UD 10 - (3) - 135 - 10/61
Paolo Rosi UD 10 - (8) - 135 - 12/61
Joe Brown UD 15* - (C) - 135 - 06/62
Art Persley UD 10 - (7) - 135 - 09/62
Kazuo Takayama UD 10 - (4-) - 126 - 12/62
Teruo Kosaka KO 5 - (6) - 135 - 01/63
Douglas Vaillant TKO 13 - (3) - 135 - 05/63
Flash Elorde TKO 14 - (C-) - 130 - 03/64
Kenny Lane UD 15 - (1) - 135 - 05/64
Ismael Laguna L 15* - (3) - 135 - 06/65
Ismael Laguna UD 15* - (C) - 135 - 01/66
Nicolino Locche D 10 - (2) - 135 - 05/66
Johnny Bizzarro TKO 12 - (4-) - 130 - 08/66
Sugar Ramos TKO 5 - (9) - 135 - 12/66
Flash Elorde KO 14 - (C-) - 130 - 01/67
Sugar Ramos TKO 4 - (9) - 135 - 08/67
Ismael Laguna UD 15 - (1) - 135 - 10/67
Carlos Teo Cruz L 15* - (1) - 135 - 08/68
Ken Buchanan RTD by 6 - (2-) - 135 - 11/72

#22 ALEXIS ARGUELLO

- **CAREER RECORD:** (77-8, 62 KOS, 4 KOBY)
- **FIRST RING RANKING:** NO. 10 FEATHERWEIGHT (MARCH 1974)
- **LAST RING RANKING:** NO. 4 JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT (JUNE 1986)
- **RECORD VS. RING-RATED OPPONENTS:** 21-4 (19 KOS, 2 KOBY)
- **OVERALL SCORE RANK:** 23
- **PEAK SCORE RANK:** 28
- **WIN TOTAL RANK:** 29
- **RING MAGAZINE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** FEATHERWEIGHT (1975-77), LIGHTWEIGHT (1981-83)

Nicaragua's "El Flaco Explosivo" used uncommon height, reach and power through title runs in three weight classes, missing out on a title in a fourth in one of boxing's enduring classics. Arguello learned on the job, falling short in his first title shot against the excellent Ernesto Marcel before breaking through for the WBA featherweight crown with a knockout of Ruben Olivares. He earned recognition from The Ring as featherweight champion in the September 1975 issue when Olivares knocked out Bobby Chacon for the WBC strap. Arguello had three defenses of the WBA title prior to that and one more as The Ring's champion before moving up in weight.

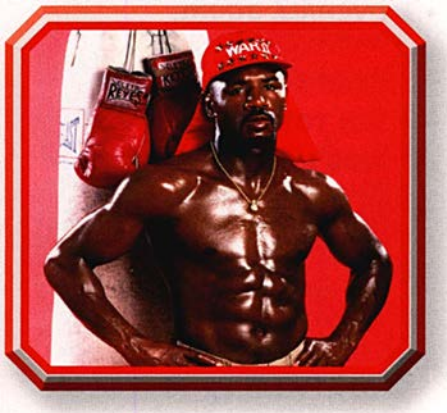
Arguello captured the WBC belt at junior lightweight in 1978 (the Ring champion was WBA titlist Sammy Serrano) and then added the Ring and WBC honors at lightweight in 1981. Arguello's first 10 wins versus ranked opposition were by knockout, as were 10 of his last 11. Arguello never beat a No. 1-ranked contender in any division. Chacon was rated ahead of him prior to losing to Olivares in 1975, and Arguello was The Ring's No. 1 contender throughout his reign at junior lightweight. Arguello did defeat three fighters ranked No. 2 in their weight class at the time. During the years he was ranked by The Ring, none of Arguello's four losses came against an unranked opponent.

MISSING QUALITY: Arguello avenged one of those four losses, to Vilomar Fernandez. Prior to his rematch loss to Aaron Pryor, he also had a knockout of Claude Noel in 1983. Neither was ranked at the time, but Noel was just three fights removed from a brief reign with the WBA lightweight belt. Arguello's finish in this study benefited from at least one debatable decision in 1980, to future lightweight titlist Jose Luis Ramirez. Arguello attempted a brief return in the 1990s, going 1-1 and never returning to the rankings.

SCORING RESULTS:

Jose Legra TKO 1 - (8) - 126 - 02/74
Ernesto Marcel L 15 - (2) - 126 - 04/74
Art Hafey KO 5 - (4) - 126 - 07/74
Ruben Olivares KO 13 - (2) - 126 - 01/75
Leonel Hernandez TKO 8 - (3) - 126 - 05/75
Rigoberto Riasco TKO 2 - (7) - 126 - 08/75
Royal Kobayashi KO 5 - (3) - 126 - 12/75
Ezequiel Sanchez TKO 4 - (7+) - 130 - 09/77
Enrique Solis KO 5 - (9+) - 135 - 02/78
Alfredo Escalera TKO 13 - (2) - 130 - 03/78
Diego Alcala KO 1 - (8) - 130 - 08/78
Vilomar Fernandez L 10 - (9+) - 135 - 09/78
Arturo Leon UD 15 - (5) - 130 - 01/79
Alfredo Escalera TKO 13 - (4) - 130 - 04/79
Rafael Limon TKO 11 - (3) - 130 - 09/79
Bobby Chacon RTD 7 - (3) - 130 - 01/80
Ruben Castillo TKO 11 - (2-) - 126 - 03/80
Rolando Navarrete RTD 4 - (9-) - 126 - 06/80
Jim Watt UD 15* - (C) - 135 - 08/81
Ray Mancini TKO 14 - (10) - 135 - 11/81
Roberto Elizondo KO 7 - (8) - 135 - 12/81
Andy Ganigan KO 5 - (3) - 135 - 07/82
Aaron Pryor TKO by 14 - (C) - 140 - 12/82
Aaron Pryor KO by 10 - (C) - 140 - 10/83
Billy Costello TKO 4 - (3) - 140 - 04/86

#23 MARVIN HAGLER



- **CAREER RECORD:** 62-3-2 (52 KOS)
- **FIRST RING RANKING:** NO. 9 MIDDLEWEIGHT (SEPTEMBER 1977)
- **LAST RING RANKING:** NO. 5 MIDDLEWEIGHT (SEPTEMBER 1988)
- **RECORD VS. RING-RATED OPPONENTS:** 16-1-1 (13 KOS)
- **OVERALL SCORE RANK:** 13
- **PEAK SCORE RANK:** 14
- **WIN TOTAL RANK:** 58
- **RING MAGAZINE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** MIDDLEWEIGHT (1980-87)

The dominant middleweight of the 1980s took the hard road through most of the 1970s, developing his craft against an assortment of veterans and other up-and-coming middleweights before breaking through to contention. He was the No. 1 contender in the pages of The Ring for all but one issue (July '78) from the February 1978 to November 1980 editions. It took two tries, 53 total fights, a controversial draw against the reigning champion and four wins over ranked middleweights for Hagler to capture the crown. Once Hagler had the title, he held on to it for the better part of a decade.

As champion, 11 of Hagler's middleweight defenses came against ranked opposition, 10 ranked at 160 pounds. The outlier, junior middleweight titlist Roberto Duran, was also the only man to last the distance in that stretch. Four of Hagler's failed challengers would go on to win sanctioning body titles from middleweight to light heavyweight after Hagler bested them. Over the course of his years in the rankings, Hagler defeated The Ring's No. 1-ranked contender six times. All of those wins came inside the distance.

MISSING QUALITY: The lone unranked challenger in Hagler's reign was Caveman Lee in 1982. Lee entered riding an eight-fight knockout streak. There are worse outliers. Hagler had several wins over opponents who were regularly ranked but just didn't happen to be when Hagler faced them. Sugar Ray Seales moved in and out of the junior middleweight or middleweight top 10 from 1976 to 1982; Hagler had a win and a draw against Seales in 1974 and knocked him out in 1979. Hagler's first two losses, to Willie Monroe and Bobby Watts, were both avenged by knockout but only after both had fallen out of the middleweight top 10.

SCORING RESULTS:

Mike Colbert KO 12 - (1) - 160 - 01/78
Bennie Briscoe UD 10 - (5) - 160 - 10/78
Vito Antuofermo D 15 - (C) - 160 - 01/80
Loucif Hamani KO 2 - (6) - 160 - 04/80
Marcus Geraldo UD 10 - (6) - 160 - 07/80
Alan Minter TKO 3* - (C) - 160 - 11/80
Fulgencio Obelmejias TKO 8 - (4) - 160 - 03/81
Vito Antuofermo RTD 4 - (4) - 160 - 08/81
Mustafa Hamsho TKO 11 - (1) - 160 - 11/81
Fulgencio Obelmejias TKO 5 - (6) - 160 - 12/82
Tony Sibson TKO 6 - (2) - 160 - 03/83
Wilford Scypion KO 4 - (1) - 160 - 06/83
Roberto Duran UD 15 - (2-) - 154 - 12/83
Juan Roldan TKO 10 - (5) - 160 - 05/84
Mustafa Hamsho TKO 3 - (1) - 160 - 12/84
Thomas Hearns TKO 3 - (1) - 160 - 06/85
John Mugabi KO 11 - (1) - 160 - 04/86
Ray Leonard L 12* - (UR) - 160 - 07/87

#24 YOUNG CORBETT III

- **CAREER RECORD:** 122-12-20 (32 KOS, 4 KOBY)
- **FIRST RING RANKING:** NO. 6 JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT (APRIL 1928)
- **LAST RING RANKING:** NO. 2 MIDDLEWEIGHT (JANUARY 1939)
- **RECORD VS. RING-RATED OPPONENTS:** (18-5-2, 5 KOS, 2 KOBY)
- **OVERALL SCORE RANK:** 20
- **PEAK SCORE RANK:** 25
- **WIN TOTAL RANK:** 41
- **RING MAGAZINE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** WELTERWEIGHT (1933)

Perhaps the most surprising outcome of the study, this crafty southpaw was born in Italy, made his home in Central California and is best remembered for his worst defeat but competed with the best of the welterweight and middleweight divisions throughout the 1930s. Corbett scored two wins over reigning welterweight champions (in non-title fights) against Jackie Fields and Young Jack Thompson before getting a crack at the division's top honors, ending the second reign of Fields. The reign was short, with Corbett stunned in the first round by Jimmy McLarnin in his first defense.

Corbett was far from done after the loss, going 8-3 against opponents ranked from welterweight to light heavyweight before exiting the rankings for the last time after a rematch loss to Fred Apostoli. Some of the biggest-name wins on Corbett's record may have benefited from timing; Mickey Walker and Maxie Rosenbloom were past their peaks and Billy Conn was still on the way up. Regardless, all were rated in the top five of their divisions when Corbett got the better of them.

MISSING QUALITY: Prior to entering the Ring rankings for the first time, Corbett had a win and draw against four-fight rival Young Jack Thompson. Corbett also had two wins in 1932 over a young Ceferino Garcia. Garcia fell out of the welterweight top 10 one issue prior to the eve of the first fight with Corbett and wouldn't return to the top 10 again until the end of 1933. Joe Glick moved in and out of the junior welterweight rankings and could have been ranked when Corbett defeated him in late 1932, but the magazine withdrew recognition of the division two issues before their fight.

SCORING RESULTS:

Young Jack Thompson W 10 - (2) - 140 - 03/28
Nick Testo KO 5 - (5) - 147 - 09/28
[Sgt. Sammy Baker W 12 - (3) - 147
Sgt. Sammy Baker L 12 - (3) - 147 - 10/28]
Pete Meyers D 10 - (UR) - 147 - 02/29
Bucky Lawless KO 1 - (2) - 147 - 09/29
Jackie Fields W 10 - (C) - 147 - 03/30
Andy DiVodi KO 6 - (10) - 147 - 06/30
Young Jack Thompson W 10 - (C) - 147 - 08/30
Sammy Jackson W 10 - (9) - 147 - 11/30
Paulie Walker D 10 - (9) - 147 - 02/31
Paulie Walker W 10 - (2) - 147 - 03/31
Jackie Fields W 10* - (C) - 147 - 03/33
Jimmy McLarnin TKO by 1* - (2) - 147 - 06/33
Young Terry KO 3 - (4) - 160 - 06/34
Mickey Walker W 10 - (5+) - 175 - 09/34
Bep Van Klaveren W 10 - (2-) - 147 - 03/35
Bep Van Klaveren W 10 - (1-) - 147 - 04/35
Lou Brouillard L 10 - (3) - 160 - 08/35
Gus Lesnevich TKO 5 - (4+) - 175 - 05/37
Billy Conn W 10 - (3) - 160 - 10/37
Billy Conn L 10 - (3) - 160 - 12/37
Fred Apostoli W 10 - (1) - 160 - 04/38
Glen Lee W 10 - (4) - 160 - 09/38
Fred Apostoli TKO by 8 - (3) - 160 - 01/39

#25 SAMMY ANGOTT

- **CAREER RECORD:** 94-29-8 (22 KOS, 1 KOBY)
- **FIRST RING RANKING:** NO. 5 LIGHTWEIGHT (JULY 1938)
- **LAST RING RANKING:** NO. 7 WELTERWEIGHT (APRIL 1946)
- **RECORD VS. RING-RATED OPPONENTS:** 22-11-5 (2 KOS)
- **OVERALL SCORE RANK:** 37
- **PEAK SCORE RANK:** 23
- **WIN TOTAL RANK:** 28
- **RING MAGAZINE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** LIGHTWEIGHT (1941-42)

A hand injury brought an abrupt end to his short lightweight reign, but Sammy Angott competed with the best in that division and welterweight for nearly a decade. Angott would be ranked No. 1 or 2 from the November 1939 to January 1942 issues prior to winning the lightweight title, including an uninterrupted stay as the top contender from the July 1940 to September 1941 issues. When Angott secured his shot at Lew Jenkins for the lightweight title, he already had 14 wins against opposition ranked at featherweight or lightweight, including two wins over top-ranked Davey Day in a three-fight series; the second win over Day was for the NBA crown.

Angott would defeat No. 1-ranked Bob Montgomery twice in non-title fights and defend once against Allie Stolz before giving up the title to heal. He returned to action in 1943 and handed Willie Pep his first loss as a professional. It would be Pep's only defeat in his first 136 fights.

Through the remainder of his career, Angott would add only three more wins against ranked foes, but among those three was an impressive stoppage of future lightweight champion Ike Williams, avenging two previous losses. Competing as a welterweight, Angott peaked with a No. 3 ranking in the October 1944 issue. He was stopped only once in his career, by Beau Jack, just months after Angott exited the rankings for the final time.

MISSING QUALITY: Two notable wins and a draw against ranked opposition fell outside the scope of this study. Just prior to entering the top 10 at lightweight for the first time, Angott snared a victory over the fourth-ranked featherweight, Jackie Wilson, in early 1938. A year after exiting the rankings for the last time, Angott scored a points victory over future NBA welterweight titlist Johnny Bratton in May 1947. Bratton entered the fight ranked fifth in the July 1947 issue. Finally, Angott held contender Sonny Boy West to a draw in January 1950; West was ranked fourth in the February 1950 issue and would go on to defeat Angott by decision twice later in the year. The second of those decisions came in Angott's final fight.

SCORING RESULTS:

Wesley Ramey UD 10 - (3) - 135 - 06/38
Irving Eldridge W 10 - (9) - 135 - 07/38
[Leo Rodak L 10 - (2-) - 126
Leo Rodak TKO 1 - (2-) - 126 - 09/38]
[Wesley Ramey UD 10 - (8) - 135
Leo Rodak UD 10 - (2-) - 126 - 11/38]
[Norment Quarles W 10 - (10) - 135
Freddy Miller UD 10 - (4-) - 126 - 01/39]
Aldo Spoldi W 10 - (4) - 135 - 05/39
Davey Day SD 10 - (1) - 135 - 11/39
Davey Day L 12 - (2) - 135 - 01/40
Pete Lello D 10 - (5) - 135 - 03/40
Davey Day W 15 - (1) - 135 - 06/40
Baby Arizmendi D 10 - (UR) - 135 - 08/40
Fritzie Zivic L 10 - (5+) - 147 - 10/40
George Latka D 10 - (7) - 135 - 12/40
Bob Montgomery MD 10 - (7) - 135 - 01/41
Dave Castilloux W 12 - (4) - 135 - 06/41
Lenny Mancini MD 10 - (8) - 135 - 07/41
Harry Hurst MD 10 - (10) - 135 - 08/41
Sugar Ray Robinson L 10 - (3) - 135 - 09/41
Lew Jenkins UD 15* - (C) - 135 - 01/42
Bob Montgomery UD 12 - (1) - 135 - 04/42
Allie Stolz SD 15 - (6) - 135 - 06/42
Bob Montgomery SD 12 - (1) - 135 - 08/42
Sugar Ray Robinson L 10 - (1+) - 147 - 09/42
Willie Pep UD 10 - (C-) - 126 - 05/43
Henry Armstrong L 10 - (2+) - 147 - 07/43
Slugger White UD 15 - (3) - 135 - 12/43
Bobby Ruffin SD 10 - (4) - 135 - 02/44
Beau Jack D 10 - (1) - 135 - 03/44
Juan Zurita L 15 - (9) - 135 - 04/44
Ike Williams L 10 - (5-) - 135 - 07/44
Ike Williams L 10 - (5-) - 135 - 10/44
Jimmy McDaniels L 10 - (9) - 147 - 12/44
Gene Burton D 10 - (UR) - 147 - 10/45
Ike Williams TKO 6 - (3-) - 135 - 11/45
Sugar Ray Robinson L 10 - (1) - 147 - 04/46

RING MAGAZINE FEBRUARY 1925-PRESENT: NO. 26-100 (CURRENT AS OF NOVEMBER 7, 2021)

26. Carlos Monzon
27. Oscar De La Hoya
28. Billy Conn
29. Harold Johnson
30. Dick Tiger
31. Larry Holmes
32. Jake LaMotta
33. Roberto Duran
34. Barney Ross
35. Kid Chocolate
36. Thomas Hearns
37. Canelo Alvarez
38. Louis Kaplan
39. Eder Jofre
40. Beau Jack
41. Michale Spinks
42. Lennox Lewis
43. Ismael Laguna
44. Floyd Patterson
45. Mickey Walker
46. Bob Foster
47. Jimmy Bivins
48. Peter Kane
49. Azumah Nelson
50. Vicente Saldivar
51. Jackie Fields
52. Wilfredo Gomez
53. Gene Fullmer
54. Rocky Marciano
55. Mike Tyson
56. Jack Berg
57. Shane Mosley
58. Wladimir Klitschko
59. Lou Ambers
60. Bobo Olson
61. Nonito Donaire
62. Felix Trinidad
63. Gennadiy Golovkin
64. Jack Sharkey
65. Kostya Tszyu
66. Pone Kingpetch
67. Benny Lynch
68. Ruben Olivares
69. Manuel Ortiz
70. Maxie Rosenbloom
71. Tommy Loughran
72. Kid Gavilan
73. Pascual Perez
74. Salvador Sanchez
75. Naseem Hamed
76. Harry Greb
77. Marco Antonio Barrera
78. Antonio Cervantes
79. Joe Frazier
80. Aaron Pryor
81. Esteban De Jesus
82. Donald Curry
83. Roman Gonzalez
84. Andre Ward
85. Erik Morales
86. Naoya Inoue
87. Juan Manuel Marquez
88. Antonio Tarver
89. James Toney
90. Terence Crawford
91. Mike McCallum
92. Carmen Basilio
93. Lou Salica
94. Wilfred Benitez
95. Joe Calzaghe
96. John Henry Lewis
97. Jose Torres
98. Gus Lesnevich
99. Lou Brouillard
100. Fidel LaBarba

SCORING DETAILS

- Scoring for total points and peak points relied on a base 11-point scale (i.e. a champion and the top 10 contenders).
  - A win over the champion of one's weight class, in a title or non-title fight, was worth 11 points, a No. 1 contender was worth 10, etc.
  - Losses worked in reverse. A loss to the champion was a one-point deduction sliding to 11 for a loss to the No. 10 contender.
  - Losses to unranked opponents drew a universal 12-point deduction. Draws against ranked opponents were worth half a win; draws against unranked opponents were a six-point deduction.
- Fighters were then given a ranking in each scoring category: overall total, peak score (the highest point their points for wins and losses reached), and ranked wins.
- Wins and losses to opponents in higher and lower divisions were included. A formula based on body weight percentage differences between divisions of ranked fighters, rather than scale weights of the fighters, was applied.
  - For instance, if a No. 2-ranked bantamweight defeated the No. 2-ranked featherweight, 126 was divided by 118 and then multiplied by standard win/loss points, making the win worth 9.61 points to the bantamweight and the loss a deduction of 3.2 points for the featherweight. If the featherweight won, 118 would be divided by 126 with the win worth 8.42 points for the featherweight and the loss meaning a deduction of 2.81 points for the bantamweight.
  - The exception was fighters moving up to face heavyweights. There is no specific heavyweight ceiling so the formula divides the weight limit of the smaller fighter's division against the actual weight of the heavyweight.
- Everyone who finished in the top 100 of preliminary research for those three categories was moved into a final pool of what came out to 150 fighters. Win total ties were broken based on peak score. Their rankings in each category were then averaged into a final score.
- To best display the range of data, they were then divided into four groups to settle on the final 100.
  - Group one: anyone who finished in the top 100 of all three scoring categories or whose scoring average was higher than those who did. (1-67).
  - Group two was anyone else who finished in the top 100 for peak score and ranked wins but not overall points (68-72).
  - Group three was derived from fighters who scored in the top 75 of any of the three scoring categories or whose final scoring average was higher than what would otherwise be the bottom ten of the top 100 (73-100).
  - The final average score was used to order the fighters in each group for those who made the top 100.

The study tried to respect the varying standards Ring has used to rank fighters over the last century. For instance, champions haven't automatically secured the top spot in every era of Ring rankings. Mike McTigue was the light heavyweight champion for the inaugural rankings in 1925 and was rated fourth.

- For the 1925 rankings, and the period when Ring didn't recognize single champions from 1989 to 2001, only 10 fighters per weight class were ranked. The points scale shifted for those years. The No. 1-ranked fighter became the 11-point win, deduction for an unranked loss was eleven points, and unranked draws were a 5.5-point deduction.
- The 1926 and subsequent annual rankings prior to the introduction of monthly rankings included more than 10 fighters so the first 11 were all factored in.

The study is primarily based on monthly rankings. However, for a lengthy period of time the February, and later March, issue of the magazine would only feature the annual ratings for the year. Those were treated as that month's rankings and, if needed, were reordered as champion and top 10 to maintain consistency.

Rankings from 1925-1928 had no monthly movement. The solution was to include all results from 1924 in evaluating 1925 and then applying six-month increments with spare exception near mid-year dates until the debut of monthly rankings; i.e. results from January-June 1925 used the 1925 annual and the rest of the year used 1926's.

THE HITMAN COVER

FORMER RING EDITOR RANDY GORDON RECOUNTS THE STORY BEHIND ONE OF THE PUBLICATION'S MOST ICONIC IMAGES

By **Randy Gordon**

Gordon and Ring publisher Bert Sugar preferred to brainstorm in a nearby pub.

You're a boxing fan. You're a reader of The Ring. No matter what your age, you have most likely seen or are familiar with the December 1980 issue of The Ring. That's the one with Thomas Hearns on the cover, dressed in a black, pinstriped suit, wearing a black fedora and holding a black machine gun. It is known as The Ring's "Hitman Cover."

Forty years after that magazine hit the stands, it remains one of the most talked-about covers of The Ring in its 100-year history.

I more than remember that cover. I created it! I was there for the photo shoot with Hearns. What a photo shoot it was! We were actually one click of the shutter away from not getting the shot. It's true. That fabulous cover almost never happened. Why? Because Hearns was uncooperative. Hysterically – as in laughing hysterically – uncooperative. It was, without question, the funniest photo shoot I have ever seen or been a part of.

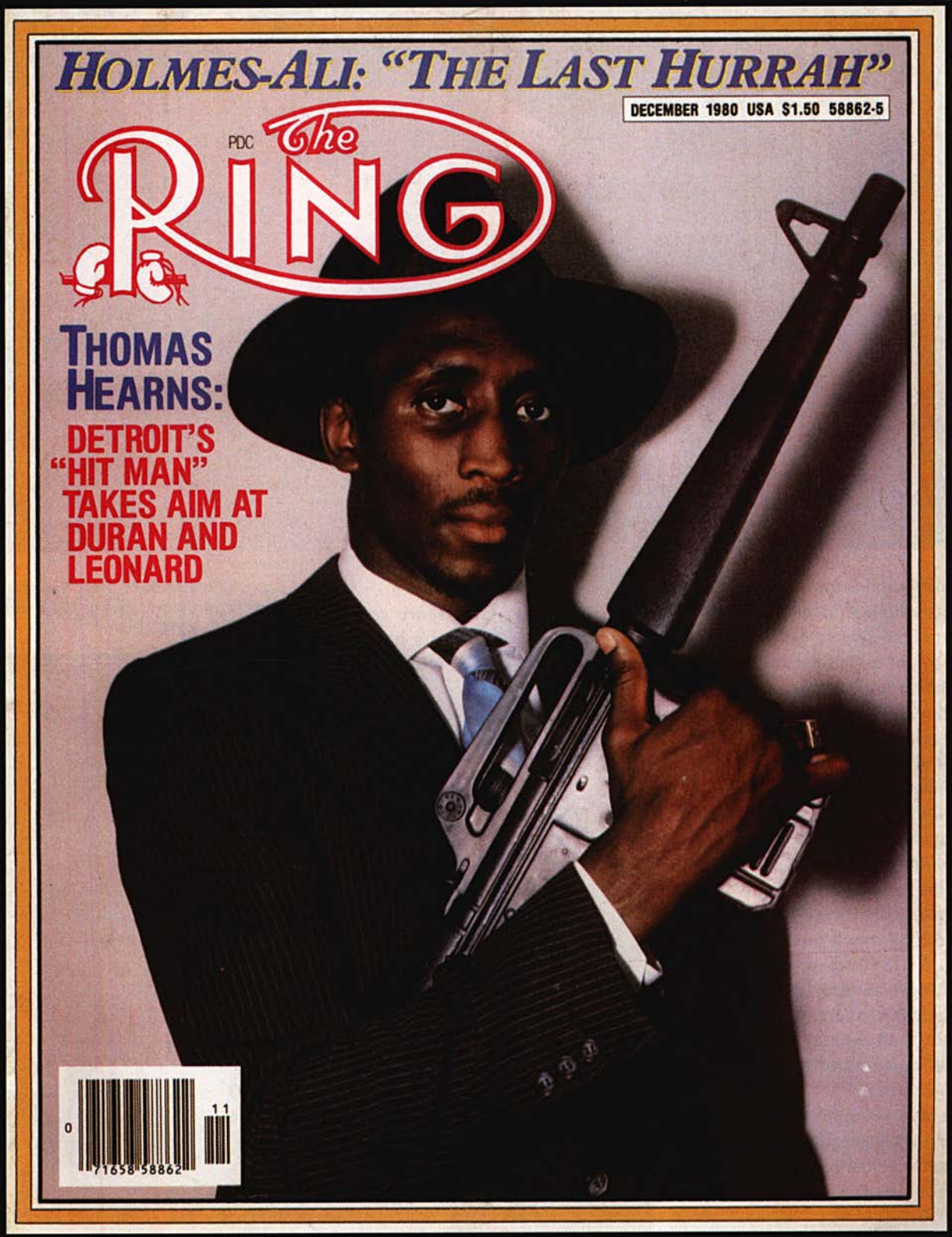
The making of the cover began on a warm day in New York City in mid-September 1980. It was time for The Ring's publisher, Bert Randolph Sugar, and I to discuss the next issue of the magazine. Who would be on the cover of our magazine? Who would we assign to write the cover story? What would the angle be? What stories would fill our 84 pages? Yes, it was time for the Sugar/Gordon monthly editorial meeting.

With most other magazines, editorial meetings are done in a boardroom cleaner than an operating room. In the old building that housed our offices at 120 W. 31st Street, no such room existed. Even if it did, a room like that would have been way too sterile for either Bert or me. Also, having an editorial meeting at The Ring in Sugar's office wouldn't work either, as our office phones (there were no cell phones around in 1980) rang constantly. So, Sugar and I took our editorial meetings 200 yards up 31st Street, across Broadway to an Irish pub called O'Reilly's. It was there that just about every issue of The Ring between October 1979 and December 1984 was conceived.

As Sugar and I walked towards O'Reilly's, he turned to me and said, "How about we go with [Muhammad] Ali on the cover."

I looked at him and winced, saying, "Bert, we just had Ali on the cover two issues ago, along with Larry Holmes, remember? On top of that, we are going to Vegas in less than three weeks to see Ali face Larry Holmes in what we both believe will most likely be Ali's final fight. How can we put him on the next cover?"

Bert nodded as he walked.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The RING
THOMAS HEARNS:
DETROIT'S "HIT MAN" TAKES AIM AT DURAN AND LEONARD
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Colorful characters: Bert Sugar and five-weight world champion Thomas Hearns in 2010.

"Let's think more at O'Reilly's. I need a couple of drinks and a good 'gar (Sugar always called a cigar a 'gar) to put me in the mood."

When we arrived, the maître d' said, "Hello, Mr. Sugar. Hello, Mr. Gordon. Your table awaits you."

We always sat at the same table. O'Reilly's was our home away from home during the work week. The manager, the maître d', the bartender, the waiters, waitresses and even the busboys knew us.

When we sat down, Bert immediately took out a 'gar and lit it up. In 1980, there were no anti-smoking mandates in restaurants. Smoking in restaurants, our office, on planes or anywhere else meant Bert would rarely be without a 'gar – lit or unlit.

He was brought a Scotch on the rocks. I was brought a Guinness.

The December issue was underway.

It took us less than five minutes to choose Hearns as the next cover subject of The Ring. Then came the discussion of what kind of photo we should use. Would it be a headshot or a pose? Do we fly out to Detroit and sit him in a fancy sports car? Do we put him in front of a backdrop of Detroit, perhaps with a realistic rubber cobra draped over his shoulders? After all, he was "The Motor City Cobra." Then, this is how the conversation went:

RANDY: "Wait! Why don't we have Hearns dress in a black, pinstriped suit, holding a snub-nose pistol? After all, he is also the 'Hitman.'"

Sugar's eyes opened wide.

BERT: "Yes! Yes! But not a handgun. Let's make it a machine gun."

BERT and RANDY: "A TOMMY GUN!" we yelled in unison. The lunch crowd all stared at us.

We raised our arms and slapped each others' hands.

Some people wait politely for their server to be free. Bert didn't wait. He yelled to our server, who was across the room, "MICHAEL, GET US ANOTHER ROUND!" Sugar paused for perhaps a second, then added – loudly – "AND BUY EVERYBODY ELSE IN THE HOUSE A DRINK ON US!" The room cheered.

"Nice going," Sugar said to me. "I see this cover as being a classic."

I didn't react. My mind was still churning, envisioning our next cover. Sugar could see I was in deep thought.

"What are you thinking? Share it with me," he said. I smiled.

"Not only will Hearns be in a pinstripe suit with a Tommy gun," I said, "he will wear one more thing."

Sugar squinted in curiosity.

"What's that?" he asked.

I didn't say a thing. I just shifted my gaze from his eyes to the top of his head. He got it immediately.

"One of my fedoras!" he responded.

"You got that right!" I said. He lifted his Scotch and raised his glass.

"To the 'Hitman' cover," he toasted.

I raised my glass and repeated his words.

"To the 'Hitman' cover," I said.

Suddenly, I realized something very important. I asked Sugar, "Where are we going to get a Tommy gun?"

He gave me a blank stare.

"That's your problem!" he said. "Find one!"

After another round of drinks and a couple of burgers, we were out of O'Reilly's and on our way back to The Ring.

Back in the office, I picked up the phone and called Emanuel Steward, Hearns' manager and trainer. I told him of our cover idea for Hearns and he loved it.

"I'm coming into New York for a meeting with HBO next week," he told me. "We'll be on an early flight. We'll have time to play with. How about we come up to your office? Do you have a photo room?"

"We certainly do!" I told him. We set the day.

When I told him I'd need to rent a pinstriped suit for Hearns, Steward said, "Hold off on that. I think he has one. If he does, I'll have him bring it along." Within the hour, Steward called me back, confirming Hearns' ownership of such a suit. They couldn't have made it any easier for us.

Thomas Hearns was the new WBA welterweight champion. He won the title in devastating fashion around six weeks earlier, knocking out reigning titlist Pipino Cuevas in the second round. Since turning professional in November 1977, Hearns had powered his way to a 28-0 record, including 26 knockouts. The power Hearns displayed as a professional was a far cry from the fast-handed boxer he was in the amateurs, where he knocked out no more than one dozen opponents in amassing a 155-8 record.

Now, as a world champion, he'd be on the cover of The Ring for the first of many times. Finding a Tommy gun was imperative.

Over the next few days, I called every gun store in Manhattan, and many in Connecticut and New Jersey. They had handguns, hunting rifles and target rifles. They had BB guns, pellet guns and shotguns. But nobody had a Tommy gun. Where was the internet when I needed it?

Then, three days before the arrival of Hearns, I found a Tommy gun in the most unlikely of places – but we'll get to that soon.

When Hearns and Steward emerged from the rickety, painfully slow elevator on the fifth floor, they ran into Bert, who was walking out of his office, which had previously been occupied by editors-in-chief Nat Loubet and Nat Fleischer before him. It was an office I would occupy a few years later.

The sound in the office went from quiet to intense the moment Hearns and Steward ran into Bert. It was as if they were longtime acquaintances. In fact, this was only the second time they had met each other. The first was seven months earlier, when Sugar and I went to Las Vegas to cover the

Hearns poses with The Ring 154-pound title belt he won by defeating Wilfred Benitez in 1982.

Larry Holmes-Lorenzo Zanon world heavyweight title fight, as well as undefeated 122-pound champion Wilfredo Gomez's title defense against Ruben Valdes. Hearns, then 24-0, was on the undercard against Fighting Jim Richards, who went down fighting in Round 3.

For me, it was the second time I had been in the company of the Kronk stars. The first time was in April 1979, when I traveled from NYC to Philadelphia to cover a J. Russell Peltz card at the Spectrum, which featured up-and-coming stars Jeff Chandler, Curtis Parker, Jerry "The Bull" Martin, Randall "Tex" Cobb, Kevin Howard and Teddy Mann.

We talked for a few minutes, but Steward and Hearns were pressed for time. It was 10:30 and they had to be in HBO's offices 15 blocks uptown in a little over an hour.

Our staff photographer, Jack Goodman, had his camera, the backdrop and the lights ready. All Hearns had to do was change. As he headed into the bathroom to do so, I handed him the Tommy gun. He laughed and took it into the men's room.

When he stepped out of the bathroom, Bert handed him one of his black fedoras. Tommy placed it on his head, then went back into the bathroom to check himself out in the mirror. His laughter could be heard throughout our office. Our stockboys came running out to see what was so funny.

Upon walking out of the men's room this time, Hearns pulled the trigger of the Tommy gun, shooting into boxes piled on the floor.

"TOMMY, THOSE ARE PHOTOS, YOU'LL RUIN THEM! screamed Bert. Tommy whirled around and said, "What else can I shoot?"

"Later," I said. "We've gotta' get you going."

He followed us into the photo room, where Goodman took many of his cover shots.

In 1980, we had cameras that used something called film. The film had around 40 shots per roll. After using each roll, the photographer had to stop and reload.

I told Hearns how we wanted him to stand and how we wanted him to look. We needed the gun across his chest and we needed him to look mean ... dangerous ... threatening. He couldn't do it.

As Goodman held down the button on his motor-drive camera, ripping off photo after photo, Hearns joked around. He continually pointed the gun at me and Steward, who were standing next to each other, perhaps a foot away on Hearns' right.

"You wanna get it?" he asked me.

"You?" he said, in a tough voice, to Steward.

He laughed as Goodman resumed taking photos and as I screamed "MEAN, TOMMY, MEAN!"

On a few occasions, he pulled the trigger, narrowly missing our copy girl, Liz, and our secretaries, Jenny and Nancy.

He laughed hysterically every time he pulled the trigger. One time, he shot me in the arm. He shot Steward in both legs. He shot Bert in the stomach when our publisher approached him, begging him to stop laughing. At one point, Hearns was actually choking from laughing so hard.

But time was running out. Hearns needed to stop laughing, give us one mean-looking shot and get to HBO. We needed a photo. Just one. All we had were photos of Hearns laughing and smiling.

Finally, Goodman was on his last roll of film. I begged Hearns to look mean, even giving him playful slaps on his right shoulder.

"MEAN, TOMMY, MEAN! PLEASE! JUST ONCE!"

Then came a yell from Goodman.

"I GOT IT! I'M PRETTY SURE I GOT IT!"

Hearns then put the Tommy gun down, put on a Ring T-shirt and took photos with Liz, Jenny and Nancy. He then changed into business attire, and he, along with Steward, left for their scheduled appointment with HBO.

Yes, Goodman got the photo we were looking for. Of the 400 photos he took, this was his final shot. It has become an iconic classic and hangs, autographed and framed, in many offices and gyms around the world.

The photo was sinister-looking. Several ad agencies dropped Hearns immediately from their roster of clients. The mayor of Detroit at that time was Coleman Young. He said to Hearns' publicist, Jackie Kallen, "Why would you (Hearns' management) do that with him? It evokes memories of 1930s Chicago. It's awful!"

Kallen, still very active in boxing, agrees with Coleman but understands what we were doing.

"We tried our best to downplay the cover," explained Kallen, "but there was no way to downplay it. That cover was the talk of, not just boxing fans, but everybody in Detroit, whether or not they were boxing fans. We just wanted that cover to go away."

How does Ms. Kallen feel today?

"It's a work of art. Thomas Hearns was the 'Hitman,' but only in a boxing sense. You and Bert brought that out artistically in the most perfect way possible. I have a framed copy hanging in my office."

As for being shot by Hearns, I really didn't mind it. Neither did Emanuel and neither did Bert.

Did I just write "didn't mind"?

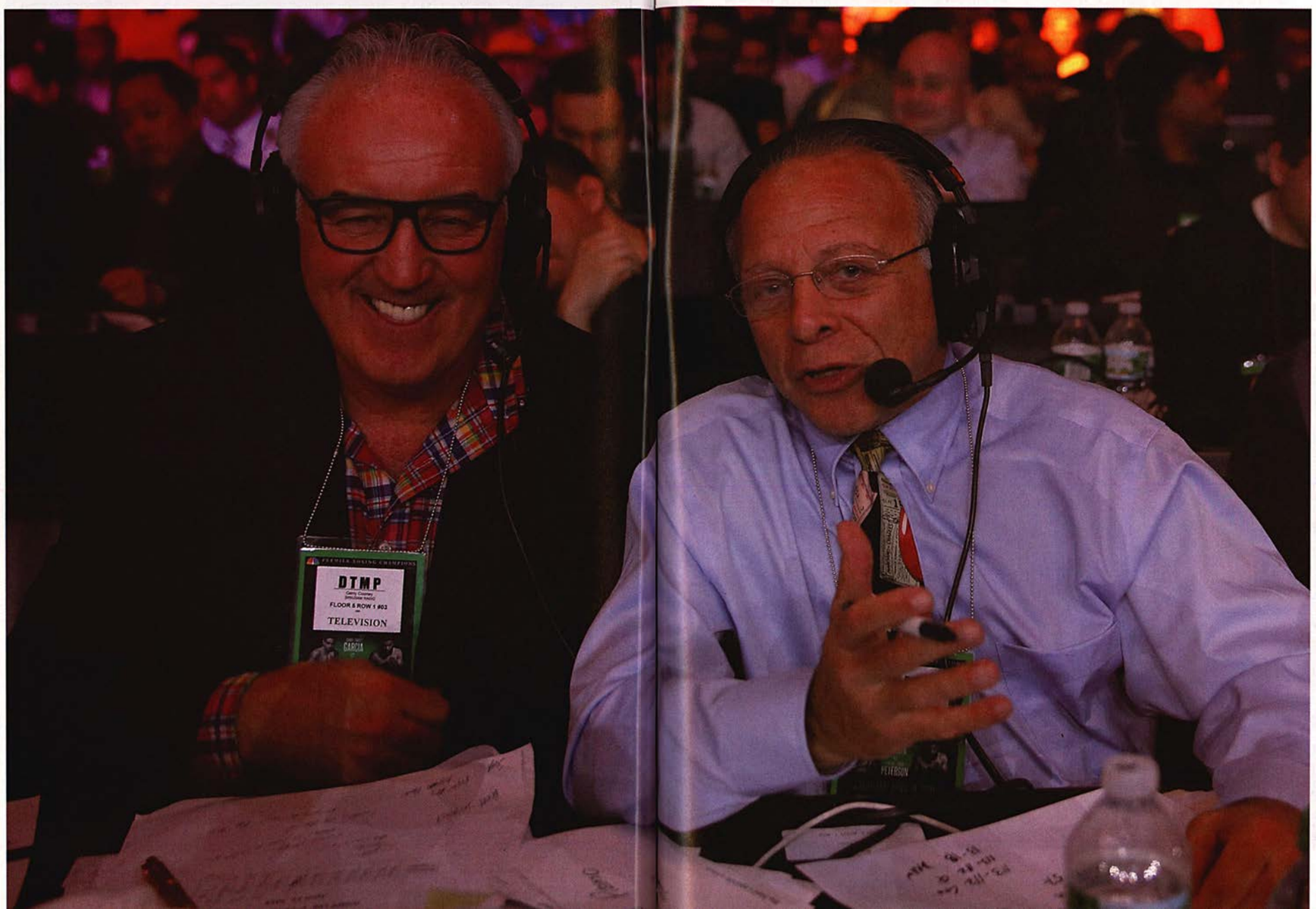
That's right. You see, the Tommy gun I was looking for but couldn't find in three states was right in my home on Long Island. It was a water pistol. It belonged to my 3-year-old daughter, Ali. I had bought two of them earlier that summer so the two of us could have water-gun battles in the backyard.

It is hard to believe that the frightening, intimidating Tommy gun that is part of one of The Ring's most popular and unforgettable covers was nothing more than my daughter's water pistol.

For the first time in the 41 years since that cover came out, I'd like to personally and publically thank Thomas Hearns and Emanuel Steward for making it happen, and for being great sports about it.

Thomas, you may have lost endorsements because of that cover, but you gave boxing fans something to talk about and cherish for the ages.

Thank you, "Hitman."



Gordon at ringside with former heavyweight star Gerry Cooney.

A CENTURY OF CHAMPIONS

TYSON FURY LOOKS BACK ON THE LEGENDARY HEAVYWEIGHTS OF RING MAGAZINE'S 100-YEAR-OLD TITLE LINEAGE

By **Tom Gray**

Fifty-eight pounds in weight, five-and-a-half inches in height and 10 inches in reach.

When the legendary Jack Dempsey blasted his way through heavyweight champion Jess Willard in three rounds at the Bay Park Arena in Toledo, Ohio, on July 4, 1919, these were the physical disadvantages that The Manassa Mauler had to overcome. Willard, a 6-foot-6½ 245-pounder, was a colossus in his day, but he didn't have the speed, the coordination, the athleticism, the reflexes or the skill to fend off a tiger like Dempsey.

Fast-forward over a century: Ninety pounds in weight, eight inches in height and 12 inches in reach.

These are the physical disadvantages that the 187-pound Dempsey would have had to overcome against reigning heavyweight champion of the world Tyson Fury. And crucially, Fury does possess speed, does possess coordination, does possess athleticism, does possess great reflexes and does possess a vast array of skills.

"To be able to move and slip and slide, I'm just an absolute freak of nature,

THE RING MAGAZINE'S 100-YEAR-OLD HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE LINEAGE »

because it shouldn't be possible for someone of my size and weight to be able to move like me," Fury told The Ring.

"If you go back to Jack Dempsey's days, to get a man my size, [the talk would be] this man can't box, he's too big, he's a circus freak. You actually see me *move* now, so I have a God-given talent, that's for sure, and I'm glad that I brought that into boxing."

The Dempsey and Fury stats are not intended to lay the groundwork for some hybrid mythical matchup; they merely serve to highlight the concept of evolution when it comes to both human beings and sports. Dempsey was the best in his day and Fury is the best today – that's all that matters.

The Ring was founded in 1922, and Dempsey, almost three years into his title reign, became this publication's very first champion. The heavyweight title has since changed hands on 28 occasions and many of its former holders are among the most iconic and revered fighters in boxing history.

When he was informed of The Ring's 100-year anniversary milestone, Fury graciously agreed to offer his own insight into some of the great glamour division warriors who preceded him. The result was a fascinating contribution from The Ring's reigning heavyweight champion, who rarely gets the opportunity to demonstrate his vast historical knowledge.

★★★

JACK DEMPSEY

The Ring Champion: 1922-1926 • Weight: 188 pounds, Height: 6-foot-1 • Reach: 73 inches • Record: 53-6-8 (43 KOs)

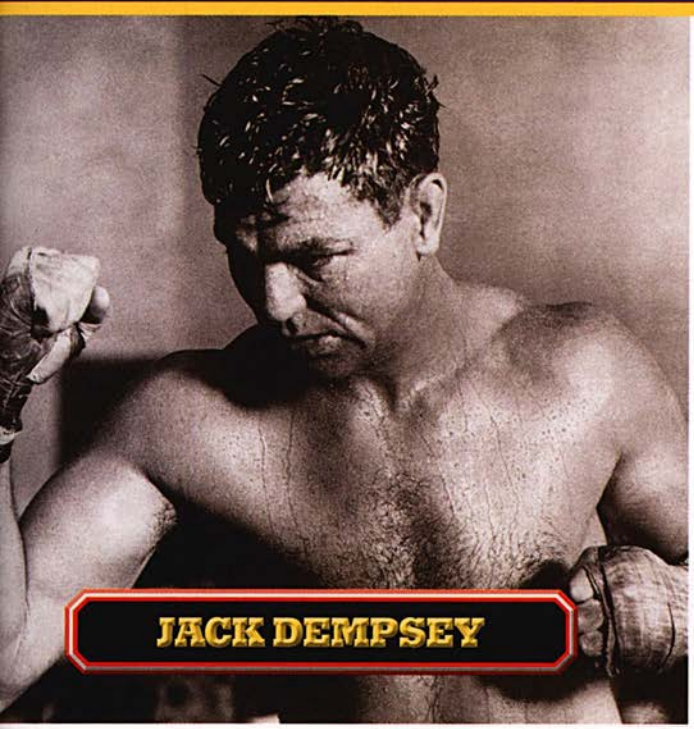
"Dempsey was very special because he didn't have [a boxing] pedigree. He was a homeless person fighting his way off the streets for a couple of bucks here and there and ended up being the heavyweight champion of the world. If that's not a rags-to-riches story, I don't know what is. Dempsey had a style that was all-action and he'd just get stuck in. He was the first big boxing attraction and his classic fights will always be remembered. Jess Willard was the dinosaur of his day, and for the smaller man to go in there and batter him was a hell of a statement."

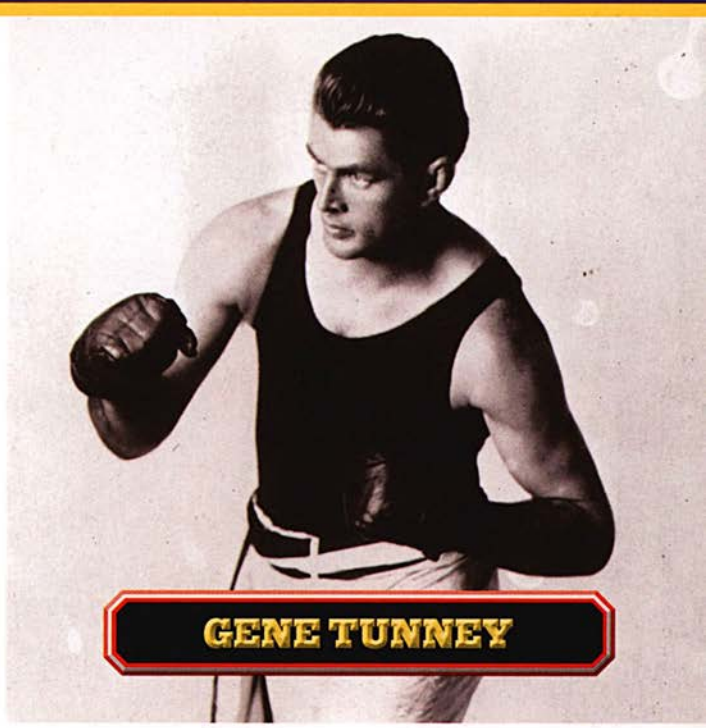
★★★

GENE TUNNEY

The Ring Champion: 1926-1928 • Weight: 189½ pounds, Height: 6 feet • Reach: 76 inches • Record: 65-1-1 (48 KOs)

"Tunney was a well-rounded boxer. He wasn't the biggest puncher in the world, but he was a classic, clean, good boxer. He was the best of his day and retired because he had





no competition. Tunney was a real character and had those great fights with Dempsey and Harry Greb. A real smart guy, not just a dumb boxer, and he ended up marrying [into the family of billionaire philanthropist Andrew Carnegie]. He was light; he'd fought at light heavyweight, and there was big men around back then like Jess Willard and some others. [The big men] just didn't have coordination back in the day. The bigger they were, the worse they were. [Tunney] was a great fighter and he achieved a lot as a man. He came from nothing and became the heavyweight champion of the world. He wasn't like Jack Dempsey – he wasn't that type of character; he wasn't the center of attention. He was more the smart, intelligent and articulate type."

★★★

JOE LOUIS

The Ring Champion: 1937-1949 • Weight: 197¼ pounds, Height: 6-foot-1½ • Reach: 76 inches • Record: 66-3 (52 KOs)

"The Detroit legend was ahead of his time. When I was 20 years old, I saw his statue near the Detroit river. I was like, 'Wow! They've got a statue of Joe Louis!' I was just walking and I didn't even know it was there. He was a great fighter and had more title defenses than anyone in history. He had that famous 'bum a month' campaign; there was a lack of challengers for him, and the war messed up his career a little bit. He was a great fighter and a legend in the game. He could knock them spark out with the right hand, he had a beautiful jab and he could put punches together: the one-two, the jab-left hook; he was pretty good all round. Even all those years ago he was a good fighter and a very good finisher. There was a lot on the line in the Max Schmeling [rematch]: It was just before a world war, Schmeling was pals with Hitler, and Joe Louis was the American. He'd lost the first time, so he had to make a statement, and we all know what happened there."

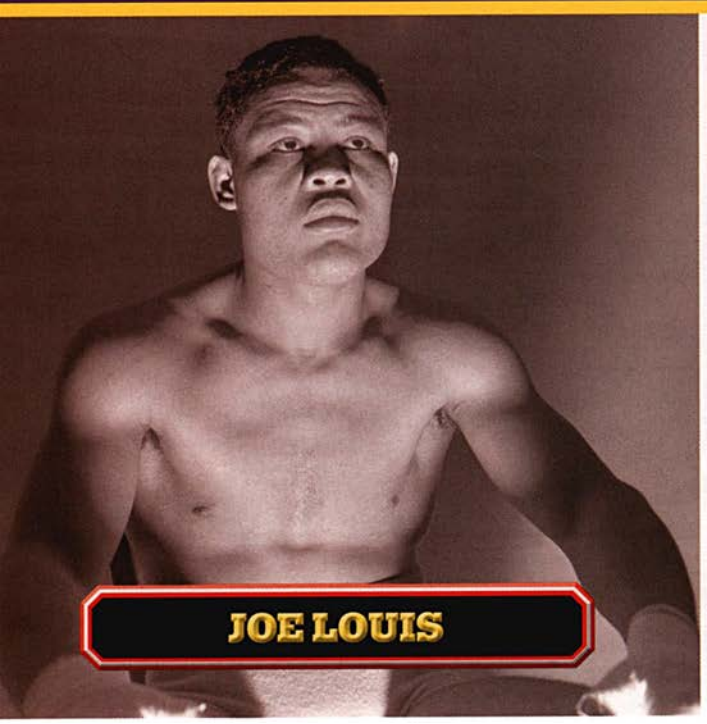
★★★

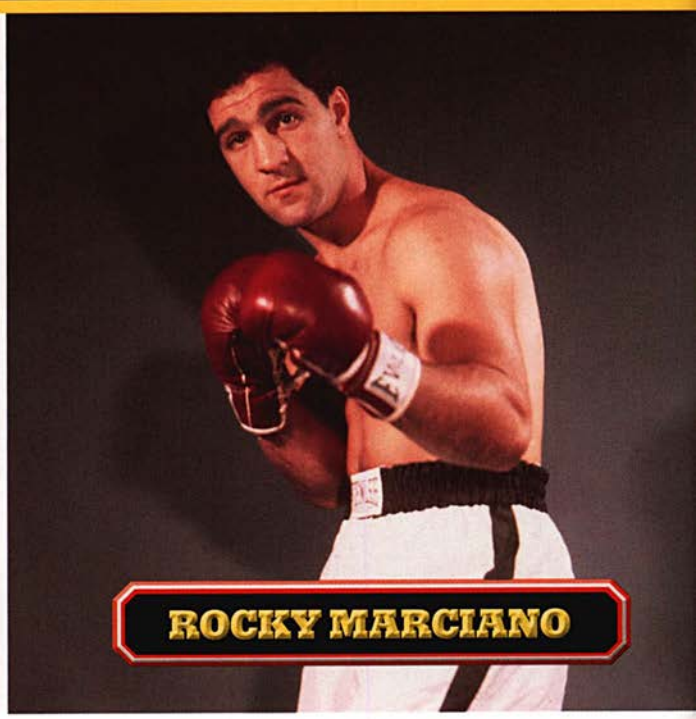
ROCKY MARCIANO

The Ring Champion: 1952-1956 • Weight: 184½ pounds, Height: 5-foot-10½ • Reach: 68 inches • Record: 49-0 (43 KOs)

"Rocky Marciano was a great fighter of his day, and you can only beat what's put in front of you. Again, there was a lack of top challengers and that's not his fault. Joe Louis was 147 years old when he fought him, and a lot of [Marciano's opponents] were at the end of their careers. Whoever his manager/matchmaker was, he had a good team behind him, because they got the biggest names of the day beyond their years. Jersey Joe Walcott was a good fighter and a top heavyweight himself. [Walcott] was a great boxer – underrated skills and way ahead of his time. A slick boxer was very rare to come by in those days, and they had a great fight. Marciano got out at the right time, undefeated, and when people talk about boxers, they mention Rocky

» **PRIMO CARNERA** (1933-1934) » **MAX BAER** (1934-1935) » **JAMES BRADDOCK** (1935-1937) » **JOE LOUIS** (1937-1949) »





because he never lost a fight. [He was a natural fighting man] and had his own style. He was small; he had little T-Rex arms; he was light, but he was aggressive and had a big heart. He'd get dropped, get back up and win by knockout. I see a lot of myself in Rocky Marciano because we both get off the floor to win.

★ ★ ★

SONNY LISTON

The Ring Champion: 1962-1964 • Weight: 213 pounds, Height: 6-foot-1 • Reach: 84 inches • Record: 50-4 (39 KOs)

"I recently read a column that Mike Tyson did and he said, 'Sonny Liston makes me look like a kindergarten child.' [Liston] was the first of the big men – 215 pounds and 6-foot-1 – and this was the first [era where] men were weighing in over 200 pounds. [Liston] was an awesome fighter and was very feared. He got in a lot of trouble outside of the ring and had a lot of gangster connections. He's probably not the smartest man there's ever been in boxing, but an awesome fighter. People will always remember Liston for getting beaten by Muhammad Ali." Fury was asked if he thought Liston could have reigned longer if Ali hadn't come around. "I don't know, because even before Ali, Liston had a loss on his record (Marty Marshall SD 8) and he got beat after Ali. There's always someone out there to beat you. There's a lot of conspiracies when it comes to Liston: Did Ali really beat him? Did Liston go over on purpose? He used to knock sparring partners spark out when they were wearing head gear; break their ribs with body shots. He once got set about by 20 police officers who were hitting him with bats and he didn't go down."

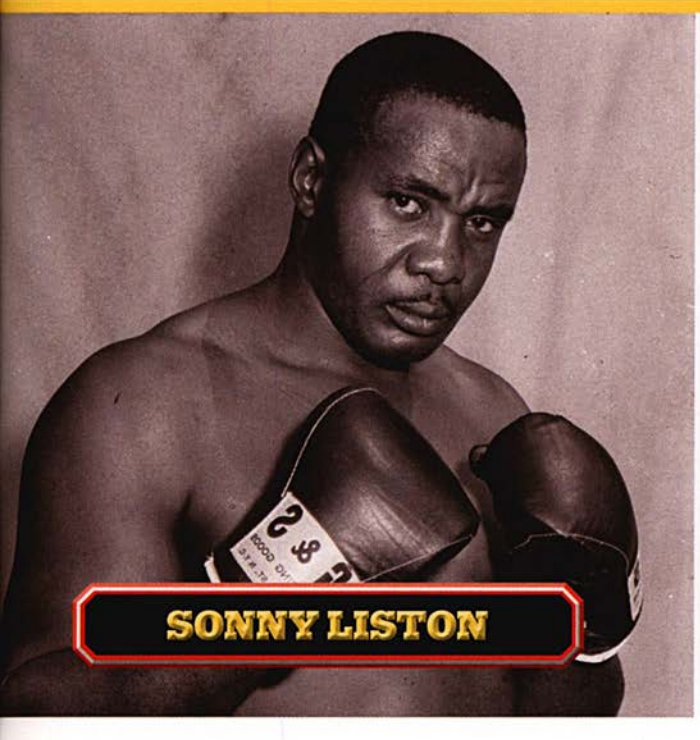
★ ★ ★

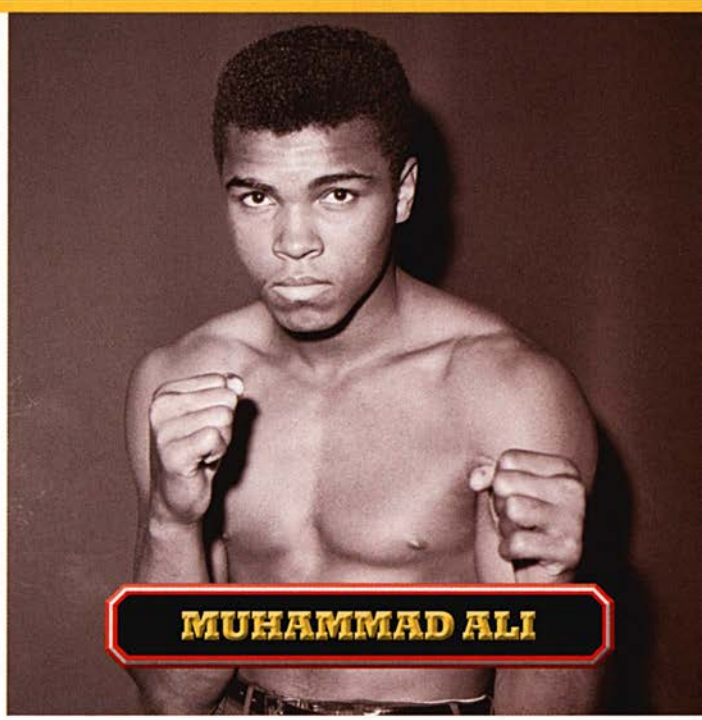
MUHAMMAD ALI

The Ring Champion: 1964-1970, 1974-1978, 1978-1979 • Weight: 210½ pounds, Height: 6-foot-3 • Reach: 78 inches • Record: 56-5 (37 KOs)

"Beat everyone in his era and that's all you can do. [He beat] Sonny Liston, Joe Frazier, George Foreman, Ken Norton and even Leon Spinks ... another era. [Ali] stayed around too long for my liking, losing to the likes of Larry Holmes and Trevor Berbick. But we never know when to say it's over, because what else is there? When you've been boxing your whole life and then all of a sudden you're too old and your reflexes have gone, what else is there to do? Muhammad Ali did a few [commercials] and toured the world and that was his life as a legendary boxer. But after it's all said and done, you're not active anymore and you're finished; it's a tough pill to swallow. One thing I can say is we've all got it coming. Ali was a good mover for back in his day, 215 to 220 pounds, always on his toes; he was very good at moving and boxing on the back foot. My favorite is the George Foreman fight for a lot of reasons: Everyone wrote [Ali] off; he'd had time out and they said he was on the slide. It reminds me of myself, always getting written

EZZARD CHARLES (1950-1951) » **JERSEY JOE WALCOTT** (1951-1952) » **ROCKY MARCIANO** (1952-1956) » **FLOYD PATTERSON** (1956-1959)





off by people when I'd had time out of the ring."

★ ★ ★

JOE FRAZIER

The Ring Champion: 1970-1973 • Weight: 205 pounds, Height: 5-foot-11½ • Reach: 73 inches • Record: 32-4 (27 KOs)

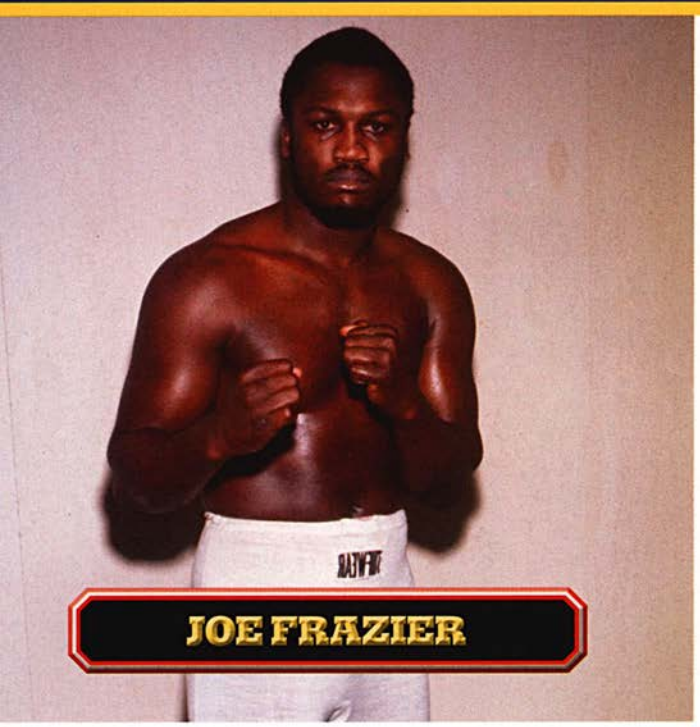
"Great fighter again for such a small man. I've heard people say he was 6-foot, but he was nowhere near that. They say you shrink as you get older, but I went to Philadelphia in 2007 and we met him. My cousin Phil, who was a welterweight at that time, was 5-foot-8 and he was bigger than Joe Frazier. [At his best, Frazier] was 200 pounds – he was like a little tank – 5-foot-10, whatever he was. Good puncher, Olympic medalist. He was a good guy and helped Muhammad Ali out [financially] because he knew that would be his big payday. Good fighter, relentless pressure. He was small and made himself even smaller. If you're really tall or really short, it's beneficial for you, and Joe Frazier had that bobbing and weaving style. The first Ali fight was the right timing for Joe Frazier; Frazier was the active world champion and obviously Ali had three years out. I believe [Ali] fought Oscar Bonavena and Jerry Quarry; he only had two fights coming back. He maybe should have had a couple more, because I know what it's like to be out of the ring for three years. I fought Sefer Seferi and [Francesco] Pianeta and then I fought Wilder, and I could have done with a couple more myself."

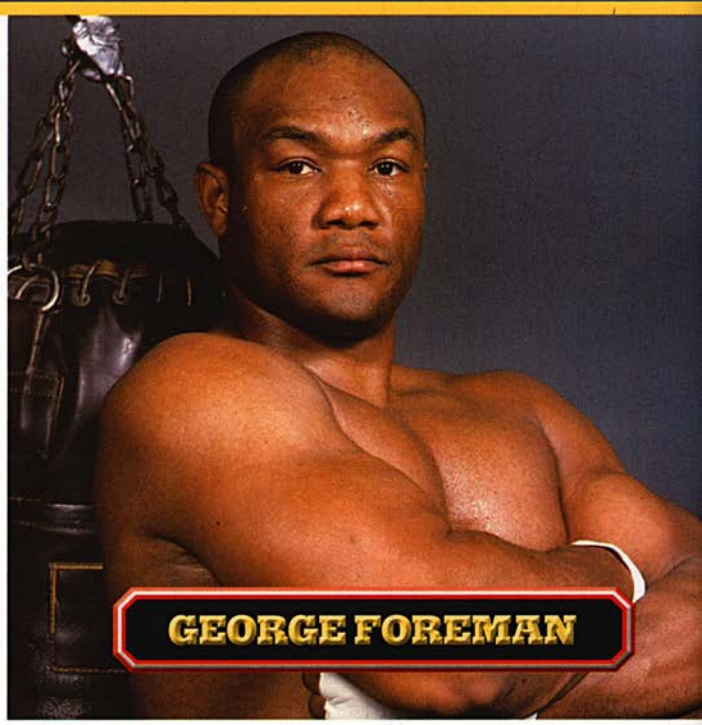
★ ★ ★

GEORGE FOREMAN

The Ring Champion: 1973-1974 • Weight: 217½ pounds, Height: 6-foot-3 • Reach: 78½ inches • Record: 76-5 (68 KOs)

"Awesome fighter. In his first career, he wiped out everybody, including the heavyweight champion of the world, Joe Frazier. He absolutely annihilated him and hit him so hard that he came off the floor. Again, an Olympic gold medalist. George Foreman from the first career was a changed man to the second career. He had to be, because nobody liked him. [When he was younger,] he had a horrible, stinky attitude and before [promoter] Bob Arum got involved with him, he wasn't liked as a person. [Foreman] had the fight with Muhammad Ali and the full world wanted to see Ali beat him ... and he did. But again, he was a wrecking machine. He had 10 years out of the ring, came back, had 20-odd fights and won the world title again at the third attempt. He lost to Tommy Morrison on points, he lost to Evander Holyfield, and obviously we know that he knocked out Michael Moorer. And he had the fight with the German fella, Axel Schulz, and a lot of people thought Schulz deserved the decision. Then he fought [and lost to] Shannon Briggs; a lot of people thought he beat Briggs and he never got it. Obviously, years later, he came out with the George





Foreman Grill and became one of the richest boxers of all time. He's now a very liked and respected world champion ... lean, mean, fat grilling machine commentator."

★ ★ ★

LARRY HOLMES

The Ring Champion: 1980-1985 • Weight: 211 pounds, Height: 6-foot-4 • Reach: 80 inches • Record: 69-6 (44 KOs)

"He was a sparring partner for Muhammad Ali. I think he had 20-odd [professional] fights and didn't even have enough money to get the bus home. He won his belt [from Ken Norton] and never looked back, and he would have beaten Rocky Marciano's [49-0] record if he never came across Michael Spinks. They had two close fights, but I've watched them over and over and I still think Spinks did enough to win them. [Holmes] was a great fighter. Again, a lovely boxing style, lovely combinations, a lovely jab, and he had a lot of experience. They were a different breed, the men from the past compared to today. Holmes was retired for years and come back to fight Evander Holyfield, a young killer, and [Holmes] was 42 years old, fat as a pig. He went the full distance, pushed it to the max; pushed it that much that he was being sick after the fight. He gave Evander Holyfield all he could handle – the same Evander Holyfield that went on to beat Mike Tyson. Going back to George Foreman, he gave Holyfield a real fight at his age (42) as well. So the two old-timers – one from the era before and one from the era before that – gave Holyfield arguably his toughest fights to that point."

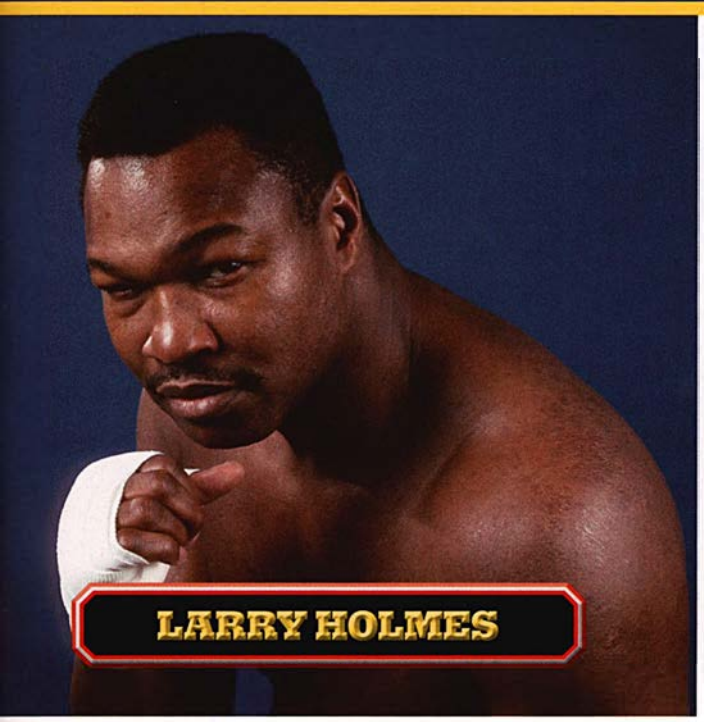
★ ★ ★

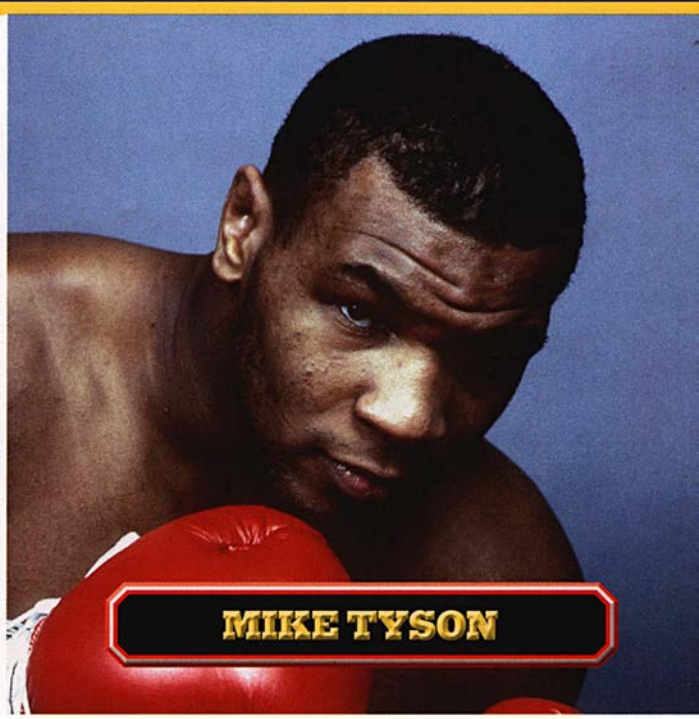
MIKE TYSON

The Ring Champion: 1988-1990 • Weight: 218¼ pounds, Height: 5-foot-10 • Reach: 71 inches • Record: 50-6 (44 KOs)

"Mike was a very good fighter, very feared. [He had] a great management team behind him that got him the right fights at the right time. They almost sold him like a brand, like Coca-Cola or McDonald's. [Managers] Bill Cayton and Jim Jacobs did an awesome job with him, absolutely fantastic. They got him all those fights, all those wins and made him an absolute legend in the boxing game. [Cayton and Jacobs] had the brains; they knew when to step him up, when to bring him back, when to step him up again. [Tyson] was an awesome fighter, for sure. [His skills] were unbelievable and a lot of people underestimated Mike Tyson's speed. It was the speed; it wasn't just one single, slow punch. [The combinations] were coming left, right, up, down, from all angles. He was very ferocious and speedy and he could knock a man out with either hand. And the fear factor as well; a lot of people got in the ring already beaten."

JOE FRAZIER (1970-1973) » **GEORGE FOREMAN** (1973-1974) » **ALI** (1974-1978) » **LEON SPINKS** (1978) » **ALI** (1978-1979) »





★ ★ ★

LENNOX LEWIS

The Ring Champion: 2002-2004 • Weight: 249 pounds, Height: 6-foot-5 • Reach: 84 inches • Record: 41-2-1 (32 KOs)

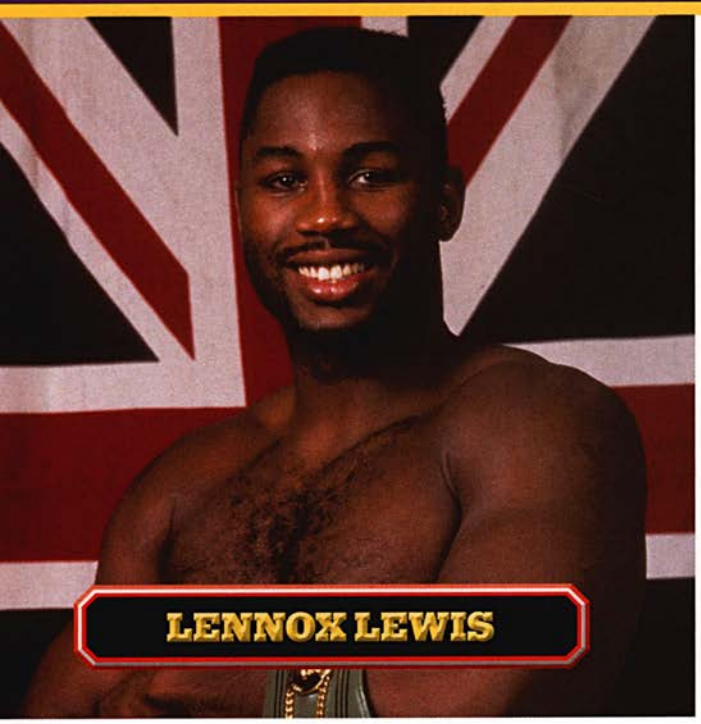
"Lennox was a good champion but, again, an underrated one, mainly because of his moving back and forward from America, Canada, England, Jamaica. Everyone wanted [Frank] Bruno to beat Lennox Lewis, but when he finally became champion, he had a good run. But again, he fought people when the timing was right for Lennox, not the other way around. He was a good fighter and I've always been a big fan. [Trainer Emanuel Steward did a great job with Lennox Lewis] for sure. He taught him how to box long. You can become complacent and stale staying with the same trainer, doing the same things day in and day out. You only have so many big nights, and sometimes you have to make the move. It's not personal, it's business. A change can be as good as rest, because a change can revitalize you and give you new things. From speaking to Emanuel, even though he trained Wladimir [Klitschko], he always felt that Lennox had more dog in him, that he would dig deep and take it. Whatever he had to do to win, he would do it. He wouldn't settle for a loss, and if he couldn't beat you by boxing, he'd take it to a war. Lennox had a good right hand, a good right uppercut and a good jab. Again, in his day, people didn't rate him, but they rate him now."

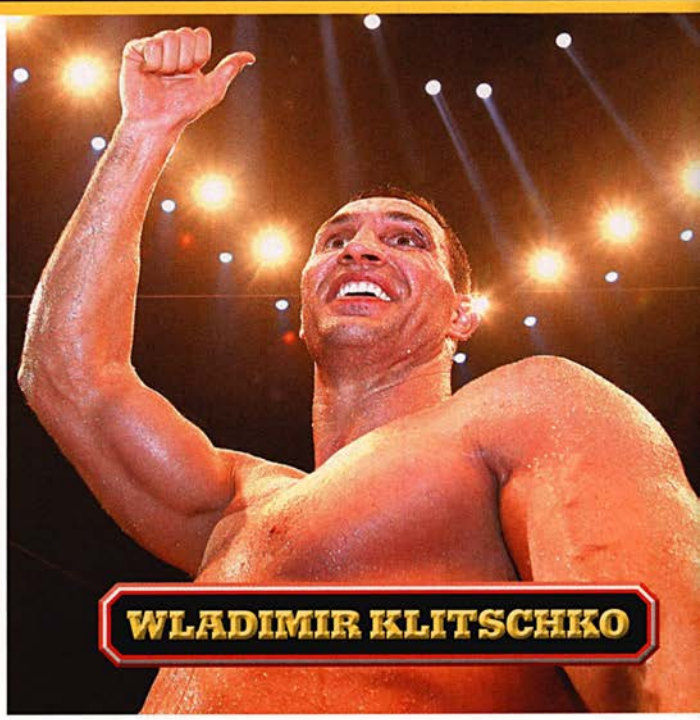
★ ★ ★

WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO

The Ring Champion: 2009-2015 • Weight: 240¼ pounds, Height: 6-foot-6 • Reach: 81 inches • Record: 64-5 (53 KOs)

"Wladimir was technically good. [He was] big, very intelligent. He obviously had a dynamite right hand, a great jab, good footwork. He was world champion for 11 years, so he was obviously a very good fighter. Again, until he met Emanuel Steward, he would get himself involved in wars and get knocked out. They worked on long boxing and jabbing and it worked a treat for him. I once asked him, 'You're the big superstar, but who have you fought?' Who did he fight? David Haye? Bryant Jennings wasn't any great shakes, just an average American. You can only beat what's in front of you, but there was no way in history that he was ever going to beat me – ever. [After I beat him,] I remember people saying that Klitschko was shot, he's not a good fighter anymore. When people get beat by 'The Gypsy King,' it's obviously because they're unwell or something. But again, Wladimir will go down as one of the longest-reigning champions in history; he had a lot of title defenses. He was definitely a legend in the game. It's easy to win a world title, but to keep pulling out positive performances over and over again, that's the





hard thing. The consistency of going into camp after camp, year in, year out, that's the hard thing. That's what makes Klitschko one of the best heavyweights of all times. The man was living and breathing boxing. He lived clean, ate clean, didn't blow up between fights and was a total professional and a top businessman."

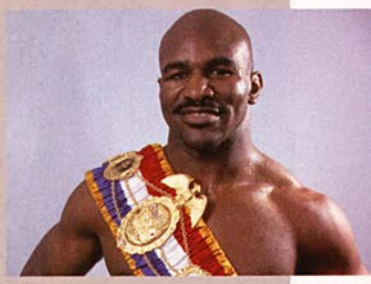
★ ★ ★

Editor's Notes: Former champions' weights match the official number registered when they first won the Ring title. If upgraded to Ring champion, as was the case with Dempsey, Holmes and Lewis, the weight is approximate to that time period. Also, sources disagree on the final records of Dempsey and Tunney; the numbers used in this feature come from BoxRec.com.

Tom Gray is Managing Editor for Ring Magazine. Follow him on Twitter: @Tom_Gray_Boxing

Evander Holyfield's four heavyweight title reigns (1990-1992, 1993-1994, 1996-1999 and 2000-2001) occurred during a time when The Ring had no championship policy. There is no doubt whatsoever that Holyfield would have enjoyed at least two reigns as Ring champion had the policy been in place. Given his legacy and credentials, we therefore deemed it appropriate to include Holyfield in this feature.

EVANDER HOLYFIELD



Weight: 208 pounds, Height: 6-foot-2½ • Reach: 78 inches • Record: 44-10-2 (29 KOs)

"I was a kid [when Holyfield was in his prime], but I've watched all the big fights in history. I remember watching him fight Dwight Muhammad Qawi, formerly Dwight Braxton, who fought his way out of prison. That was an awesome fight. 'The Buzzsaw,' they called him. For a guy who was having his 12th professional fight in Holyfield, they definitely chucked him in at the deep end; a 15-rounder for the [WBA cruiserweight] world title. It was an unbelievable fight; I don't think you can get much better. But he had a lot of good fights, Evander Holyfield, a lot of wars. Because he was small, he'd have wars with just about anyone. He was teak-tough with a good work rate. The [Riddick] Bowe trilogy [produced] good fights, but Bowe was just too big for him: 6-foot-5 and around 250 pounds. But Bowe always had a lot going on in his life; he was a very troubled man, and he probably never trained properly again. After [Holyfield], he only had the two Andrew Golota fights and it was done for him. He fought that Cuban fella as well, Jose Luis Gonzalez. But going back to Holyfield … great fighter, obviously remembered for beating Mike Tyson twice. He's actually underrated, because without the likes of Mike Tyson, Holyfield wouldn't even be talked about, I don't think. He was a great fighter, but Mike Tyson's name brought him into the limelight. But the one man I don't think Holyfield would ever have beaten, whether he was at his best or not, is James Toney (who stopped Holyfield in nine rounds in October 2003)."

VITALI KLITSCHKO (2004-2005) » **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO** (2009-2015) » **TYSON FURY** (2015-2018, 2020-present)

FOLLOW YOUR BLISS

A MOSTLY TRUE STORY ABOUT MY CONTENTIOUS MARRIAGE TO A BOXING MAGAZINE

By **Nigel Collins**

Collins served as editor-in-chief twice during his career ...

How did a failed art student who never took a journalism or creative writing class in his life become a two-time editor-in-chief of The Ring? It wasn't a Horatio Alger rags-to-riches yarn come to life. It was a love story that began with a schoolboy crush, fortified by monthly visits to a drugstore near where we lived.

The drugstore was the old-fashioned kind with a lunch counter that served coffee, hot dogs cooked under a light bulb and watery chicken noodle soup. The pharmacy was at the back, and opposite the lunch counter was an impressive newspaper and magazine rack. It carried everything from Time and Teen Beat to Mad magazine and the Racing Form and always seemed to get the new issues of The Ring and Boxing Illustrated before anybody else.

That wasn't even the start of my obsession with all things pugilistic. My father and grandfather had regaled me with tales of certain boxers' feats of derring-do. Somebody in the family had a set of four gloves, and I boxed my uncles, my father and grandfather. They would get down on their knees and try to hold off my nonstop barrage of haymakers. They'd laugh when I hit them, and then stick out their chin for me to hit again. I couldn't understand why I wasn't hurting them, and every now and then they'd poke me in the belly, not hard, just to remind me that they could.

By the time I was 18, I was a regular customer at fight cards at the Philadelphia Arena, smitten by the funky atmosphere, the passion of the crowd and the humanity of the boxers.

I knew I wanted to be a part of it, but didn't know how. Then I filled in for a friend who couldn't make it and covered a show for Boxing Illustrated. The report was published without a byline, but just seeing it in print excited me. I invented a bizarre hand-drawn boxing fanzine that I circulated among a few close friends, but it only lasted two or three issues.

I had almost given up when Archie Parolli, Philadelphia's Ring correspondent since Ben Franklin was flying his kite, died. I convinced my friend, promoter J. Russell Peltz, to put in a good word for me. He did and I got the job, the beginning of a lengthy pilgrimage that took hold of me and wouldn't let go. Or, was it me who won't let go? "C'est la vie,"

... and entered the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2015.

say the old folk. "It goes to show you never can tell."

During the 100 years that have passed since Nat Fleischer founded The Ring in 1922, there have been six owners, counting Fleischer, and eight editors, one of them (me) crazy enough to serve twice.

It's true what they say. You never forget the first time, and my recollection of the first fight I covered for The Ring is as vivid today as it was the night of my maiden voyage.

Things were going so badly for Bennie Briscoe that by the fifth round, my female companion was in the lobby crying. Almost as distraught was promoter Peltz, who rushed to the lobby to comfort her. I remained ringside, eyes glued on the action. I wasn't about to blow my very first assignment for The Ring by deserting my post.

The 4,765 fans in attendance at the Arena were eerily quiet the night of October 11, 1972, as they watched fleet-footed Luis Vinales easily avoid Briscoe's lunging punches while sending a steady stream of jabs into the local hero's face.

Six months prior, Vinales had won a 10-round decision over Briscoe, snapping the Philadelphian's string of 11 consecutive knockouts – a streak that had earned him a crack at middleweight champion Carlos Monzon. In order to preserve his title shot, Briscoe had to defeat Vinales in the return bout, but as the rounds ticked by it appeared that Vinales was well on his way to a repeat victory.

"I was still in the lobby when I heard a roar from the crowd," said Peltz, who dashed back into the arena just in time to see referee Pete Tomasco award Briscoe a TKO victory at 2:41 of the seventh round. Bennie had finally zeroed in on Vinales' chin and twice floored him before the ref called a halt. The Monzon fight was salvaged and my first byline appeared in the December '72 issue.

Thus began a splendid decade of covering what is considered the last golden age of Philadelphia boxing, an era that began in the late 1960s and lasted until the early '80s. There were fairly regular shows at a number of locations, including the Blue Horizon, the Arena and Convention Hall. But the game changer was the Spectrum creating its own boxing program and hiring Peltz to run it. Boxing had suddenly gone upscale, and the fighters who had fought mainly in gritty old venues were now competing in the same building as superstars Bobby Clarke and Julius Erving.

The Ring's correspondents were not paid, and the only money I made that decade was a couple of hundred dollars for an occasional $50 feature. Thankfully, I also had a paying gig with the British weekly Boxing News. That and my day job kept me afloat, and being a member of the credentialed media saved hundreds of dollars I would have spent on tickets.

Just as important as a free ringside seat was the access to the boxers,

trainers and managers. Hanging out in gyms became a habit, not just for the knowledge absorbed and contacts met, but for the bruising camaraderie that is strangely addictive.

Nat Fleischer, founder and publisher of The Ring, died in June 1972, and his son-in-law, Nat Loubet, became publisher. It was under Loubet's watch that the magazine became embroiled in the scandal involving Don King's United States Championship Tournament, which was broadcast on ABC. In 1976, The Ring received a $10,000 fee to provide records for boxers being considered for the tournament, but managing editor Johnny Ort changed the records of certain fighters, adding fictitious wins to help them obtain well-paid tournament bouts.

Muckraker Malcolm "Flash" Gordon exposed the scam, and ABC canceled the tournament, leaving The Ring's reputation for integrity, forged by Fleischer over decades, in tatters.

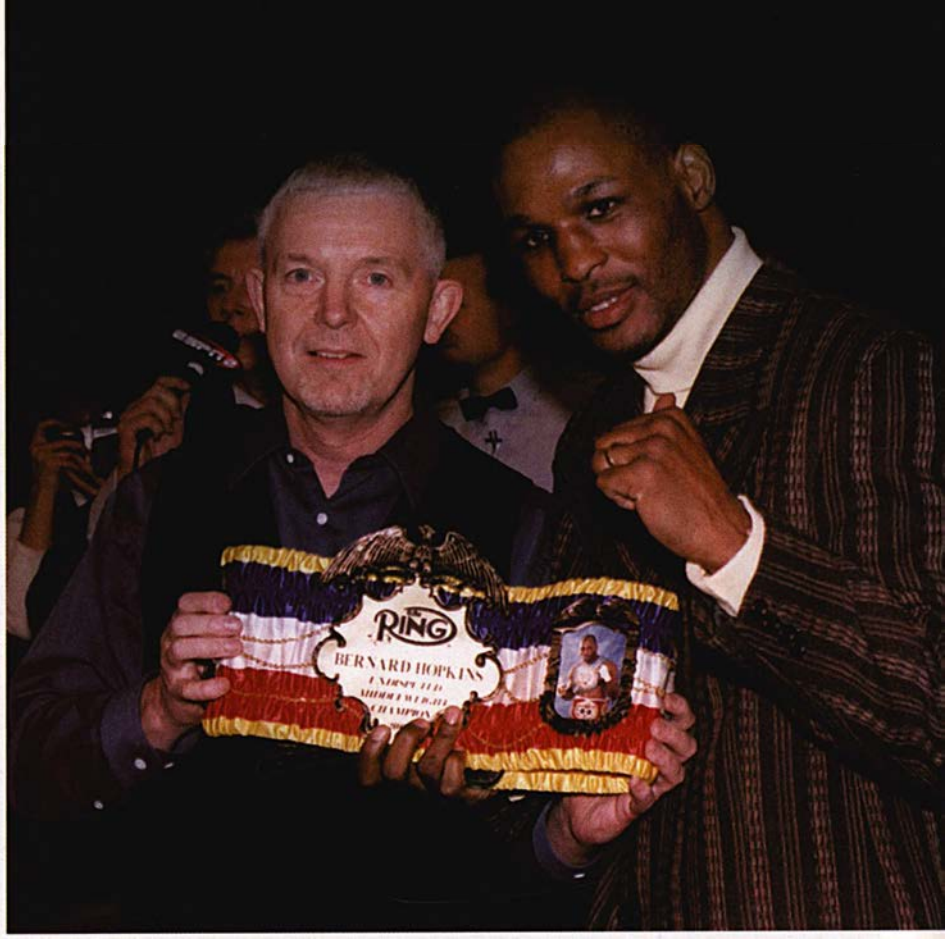
Hoping to restore The Ring to its former glory, Bert Randolph Sugar put together a group of investors that purchased the magazine from the Loubet family in 1979. An aesthetic makeover, better writing and the power of Bert's bon vivant personality rebranded the magazine, exorcising the taint of the ABC-TV, Don King scandal the best he could.

Sugar not only modernized the graphics, he raised the fees for freelancers and assigned me two cover stories, WBC light heavyweight titleholder Matthew Saad Muhammad and WBA bantamweight champ Jeff Chandler. I also scored profiles of Frank "The Animal" Fletcher and Dwight Muhammad Qawi, aka the "Camden Buzzsaw." In 1984, I joined the staff as a full-time employee.

I didn't know when I was hired that The Ring was spending money it didn't have, falling deeper and deeper into a Niagara of red ink. We were like guests at a Roman nobleman's last orgy before committing suicide, riding the gravy train to the end of the line. We didn't just send a writer and photographer to big fights, we traveled en masse, lapping up the perks, hanging out with pimps and gamblers and finagling our expense accounts.

Bert's office was something out of Collyer's Mansion. Except for a small area where he kept his typewriter, his desk was piled high with books, newspapers, magazines, manuscripts, letters, notepads, photographs and an assortment of odds and ends ranging from empty cigar packs to a discarded tie and a neglected rugby ball. There were similar piles scattered around the room and, in retrospect, it's hard not to relate the monumental disorder of his office to the magnificent chaos that typified Bert's half-decade at the helm of the publication.

Then there was Denis Blanck, a hulking teddy bear of a man with a friendly face and a mischievous glint in his eyes. Bert had originally introduced him as "the man who has been installed to keep me from going too far askew." That was at O'Reilly's Irish Pub during a boozy luncheon to finalize the terms of my employment. Blanck seemed too convivial for a corporate watchdog, but that was one of his strengths – a friendly face with a crafty mind.



Collins presents Bernard Hopkins with the Ring middleweight championship belt in 2001.

Shortly before I was hired, Sugar apparently put on quite a show for the investors, complete with a pre-internet PowerPoint presentation that convinced the moneymen that the way to turn things around was to go big, publish more magazines. To that end, the company acquired Boxing Illustrated and an obscure magazine called Military Miniatures. That particular property came with an aging major in crisis because he could no longer attract young women and a photographer who was legally blind.

The go-big scheme bought some time but was predestined to fail. Then came the day of reckoning, when Bert could no longer charm his way out of the monetary quagmire. The jig was up and a series of purges commenced.

I found Bert in his office shortly after he was fired. He was surprisingly calm for a man known for blustery outbursts. "I'm going away for a while," he said, as if he was taking a

sabbatical, although both of us were aware that he wasn't coming back. Then, obliquely acknowledging the tenuous position in which I found myself, he said, "You got where you are by being yourself, so don't change, and as far as my situation is concerned, don't take sides." With that he was gone, heading undoubtedly to O'Reilly's, where he set up shop as "editor-in-exile" for a brief period.

Blanck, who became de facto publisher, asked me to go over the contributors' invoices, a task that helped uncover a substantial misappropriation of funds. In one instance, checks for a contributor who lived in Florida had been cashed at a bank just around the corner from the office. It was the same for a check made out to John Mugabi, the subject of a story, not the writer.

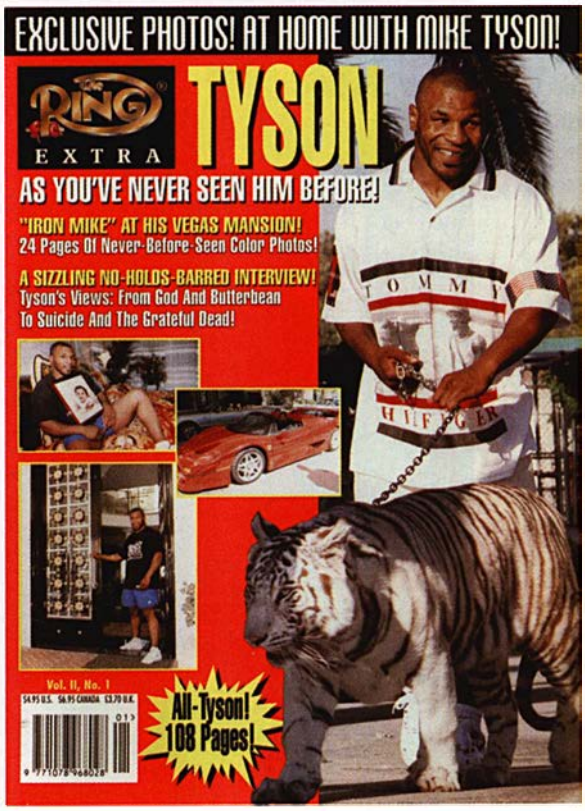
I never knew the total amount of money missing but was told it was in the tens of thousands. Denis and I had a pretty good idea of who was responsible, but the owners, for reasons we could never figure out, refused to bring charges.

Randy Gordon, an earlier Bert hire, was appointed the new editor of The Ring, while my main responsibility was Boxing Illustrated. That arrangement lasted until the autumn of '84 when, in an attempt to keep the company viable, a far more drastic shake-up took place. Boxing Illustrated was shelved. Gordon was fired, as were staff photographer Jack Goodman and some of the clerical staff.

We also moved to a smaller office in the basement of a commercial building at 130 West 37th Street, where I was installed as editor of The Ring starting with the January '85 issue, just 16 months after joining the staff. What a rush!

Money problems aside, 1985 was a very good year. My new position put me ringside for Marvelous Marvin Hagler's merciless third-round knockout of Thomas Hearns. Watching it was an out-of-body experience that remains my go-to answer when people ask what was the greatest fight I've seen.

In November of '85, I drove to Latham, New York, to see Mike Tyson fight. It was prep for his first Ring magazine cover story, a chance to get a sense of the man who had invigorated the heavyweight division like nobody since Muhammad Ali. After Tyson disposed of Conroy Nelson inside of two rounds for his 13th knockout in 13 pro fights, some of us adjourned to a nearby restaurant. I ended up sitting alone and finished quickly.



There was a dish of candies next to the cash register, and as I waited for my change, a large hand reached around me and scooped up a handful of courtesy sweets. I turned to see who it was.

"In the old days I would have taken all of them," said Tyson and laughed.

I told Mike I was working on what would be his first Ring cover story, and he wrote his phone number on a scrap of paper and gave it to me. The following week, I met Mike at Bill Cayton and Jim Jacobs' Manhattan office for a formal interview and photo shoot. While under the management of Cayton and Jacobs, Tyson was more accessible than he would ever be again during his fighting career.

It should not have come as a shock, but it did. I arrived at The Ring office one morning to find the door padlocked and a notice from the Internal Revenue Service taped to the door.

The federal government had also seized the company's bank account, and with the magazine shut down and no help forthcoming from the owners, how were we supposed to pay our tax bill? With no way to generate the money required to reopen, it looked like the end.

Denis, however, was a step ahead of the feds. Unknown to me until the crisis was the fact that there were two bank accounts, only one of which the tax man was unaware. Denis made arrangements with the office landlord to receive our mail, and every weekday he picked it up and deposited the checks in the second account.

Meanwhile, I continued to put together the next issue, working out of the type of shop that also provided design services. Communication with contributors was conducted from various public phone booths on the streets of Manhattan. The most amazing thing about the unfortunate episode was that we didn't miss a single issue. Shortly after going to press, enough money had been accumulated to persuade the IRS to remove the padlock and lift the bank lien. It was, of course, only a stay of execution.

While Tyson's popularity certainly helped sales and kept the magazine limping along, The Ring never recovered from the near-bankrupt condition that already existed when the Bert Sugar era ended.

Things got so bad that in 1989 we published only four issues before publications ceased altogether. Months later, Stanley Weston, who had worked for Fleischer before breaking away and starting London Publishing, bought The Ring and resumed publication with the January 1990 issue.

I worked for Weston during the transition period but declined an offer of a staff position because I didn't want to move to Long Island, where London Publishing was based. I did, however, continue my relationship with The Ring, writing freelance articles in order to use London's vast photo library to illustrate Boxing Babylon, a book I wrote shortly after leaving The Ring.

Then something totally unexpected happened: Less than five years after buying the magazine, Weston sold it to Kappa Publishing, located in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania, about a half-hour's drive from my home. I don't know if it was fate or simply good luck, but who cares? I rejoined the staff and was back in business.

I worked as managing editor until Steve Farhood resigned in 1997 in order to pursue a career in television, at which time I regained the editor-in-chief position. Kappa management didn't really have much interest in boxing. It owned several printing plants and had obtained The Ring and other London Publishing periodicals to keep the presses running between outside clients. Still, the financial situation, while not particularly generous, was stable.

Kappa's vice president of marketing, David Gerhardt, and I worked as a team setting up and conducting perhaps the most important interview I ever did – 90 minutes behind bars alone with Mike Tyson while he was incarcerated in Indiana. Gerhardt buttered him up for months and I flew into Indy and did the deed. Rights to republish the interview were sold to about a dozen foreign-language countries throughout the world.

We teamed up again a few years later when Tyson allowed us to visit his Las Vegas mansion twice in a span of three days. In some ways, the interview was more revealing than the one in prison. He took me for a ride in his new Ferrari and brought his white tiger out of the cage to pose with it for a cover photo. Mike couldn't have been more accommodating and seemed to be enjoying our company as much as we were enjoying his.

I have long campaigned against the alphabet governing bodies, holding them responsible for what I consider a ridiculous and harmful situation in which world titles are split into multiple pieces. It's all about sanctioning fees and power, and it would be considered extortion if the victims were not willing facilitators.

I have always felt that The Ring should be more than just a magazine. It should be an advocate for the sport, guiding it in the best direction. In the April 2002 issue, we announced a new championship policy and the return of the Ring belt, emblematic of a true champion. The belt is free and there are no sanctioning fees. I believe the policy is, generally speaking, still in use today.

Collins hoists the arm of undisputed middleweight champ Jermain Taylor.

AL BELLO

I had just presented Jermain Taylor with The Ring middleweight championship belt at a New York City press conference and was headed for the door when somebody called my name. It was Richard Schaefer, the Swiss banker Oscar De La Hoya had hired to run his promotional company. He told me he wanted to buy The Ring but had not been able to arrange a meeting with the owner. Could I help? I said I'd look into it.

I've asked myself many times if I should have done what I did. Arrange a meeting between Schaefer and Kappa Publishing's owner, Nick Karabots, that ultimately led to my dismissal. As far as I'm concerned, it's too late to worry about it and too late to care.

When the story broke that Oscar had bought the magazine, there were legitimate questions about a conflict of interest. Schaefer and De La Hoya issued a press release insisting that management would not interfere with editorial content and we would have total freedom. It's easy to believe a lie when you want to believe it, and that's why the Ring staff and I did.

Things were fine the first couple of years. There was a week with Oscar in Los Angeles that included a round-trip flight to Tucson in his private jet, a few hours at the exclusive Brookside Golf Course, a seat next to Juan Manuel Marquez at the Tecate Premios Deportes award telecast, plus fight cards in both Tucson and L.A. There was also an all-expenses paid trip to Germany to present Wladimir Klitschko with his heavyweight championship belt, and most important of all, a healthy raise in compensation.

The first time I realized trouble was brewing was when Schaefer called me to complain about Shane Mosley's rating in the welterweight division. I handled the call the same way I would any manager or promoter with a similar beef. I listened carefully, respectfully gave my rebuttal and told him he was welcome to call anytime. He expected me to cave and became angry when I didn't. I don't recall if he ever spoke to me again.

A few months later, I was given a performance review filled with exaggeration, half-truths and outright lies, a real hatchet job. I was the only employee given a performance review, so I called my lawyer and she told me to answer every accusation truthfully as quickly as I could.

When I handed the company lawyer my reply, he said I'd be hearing from them. I never did. A tension-filled year later, they closed the East Coast office and claimed my job no longer existed. My final issue as editor was November 2011.

I was informed later that Oscar didn't even know I'd been fired until a month or so after the fact. Whether he did or didn't doesn't make me any less grateful for being given the opportunity to guide The Ring for so long, helping her survive the taxman and the bill collector, and doing my best to serve boxing and our readers.

BOXING THROUGH THE DECADES

PRIZEFIGHTING CAPTIVATED THE PUBLIC EVEN BEFORE RING MAGAZINE WAS FOUNDED, BUT THE PUBLICATION CHRONICLED ITS EVOLUTION INTO A MAJOR SPORT AND BIG BUSINESS FOR 10 DECADES

By **Doug Fischer** (with contributions by Michael Montero, Lee Groves and Anson Wainwright)

Jack Dempsey demolishes heavyweight champ Jess Willard on July 4, 1919, in Toledo, Ohio.

The Ring was founded during the heyday of Jack Dempsey. The Manassa Mauler captured the public's imagination like few other sports figures had before him or would following his wild seven-year heavyweight championship reign that began with a ruthless three-round drubbing of Jess Willard in 1919.

Dempsey was supported by Tex Rickard's promotional genius and business savvy, as well as manager Jack Kearns' deep knowledge of the sport. With his rugged good looks, rough but charismatic personality and fierce fighting style, Dempsey energized and helped popularize what was still largely regarded as a renegade sport at the start of the 1920s.

It was the perfect time for New York-based sports editor Nat Fleischer to found a magazine devoted entirely to boxing.

In Fleischer's own words: "I started The Ring at a time of high excitement, and crescendo of public interest.

"Had Willard beaten Dempsey I probably would not have started The Ring. Willard had been a rather lethargic, colorless champion.

"Dempsey in the ring, Jack Kearns shouting his praises. Tex Rickard in command in New York's Madison Square Garden. What a spectacular combination!"

That combination produced financial and attendance records that stood for decades. Dempsey's title defense against French idol and World War I hero Georges Carpentier, one of Rickard's promotional masterpieces staged on July 2, 1921, at a custom-built outdoor arena in Jersey City, New Jersey, produced boxing's first million-dollar gate.

Dempsey made for even bigger promotions in New York City, Philadelphia and Chicago vs. Luis Firpo and Gene Tunney. But the gravy train seemingly ended when Tunney, who dethroned Dempsey, retired as champ in 1928. Months later, Rickard shockingly passed away during an appendectomy in Miami Beach, Florida.

Who could fill the promotional void, Fleischer asked in nervous editorials following Rickard's untimely death in January 1929? What would happen to the "crescendo of public interest" without a star heavyweight champ (or a prolific promoter to keep the attraction busy)?

Fleischer needn't have worried. By the mid-1930s, Rickard's "moneyman" and understudy Mike Jacobs had formed a successful promotional company, the Twentieth Century Sporting Club, and would soon take over Madison Square Garden's promotions (as well as the status of most powerful man in boxing) via his association with an up-and-coming African American heavyweight puncher known as "The Brown Bomber."

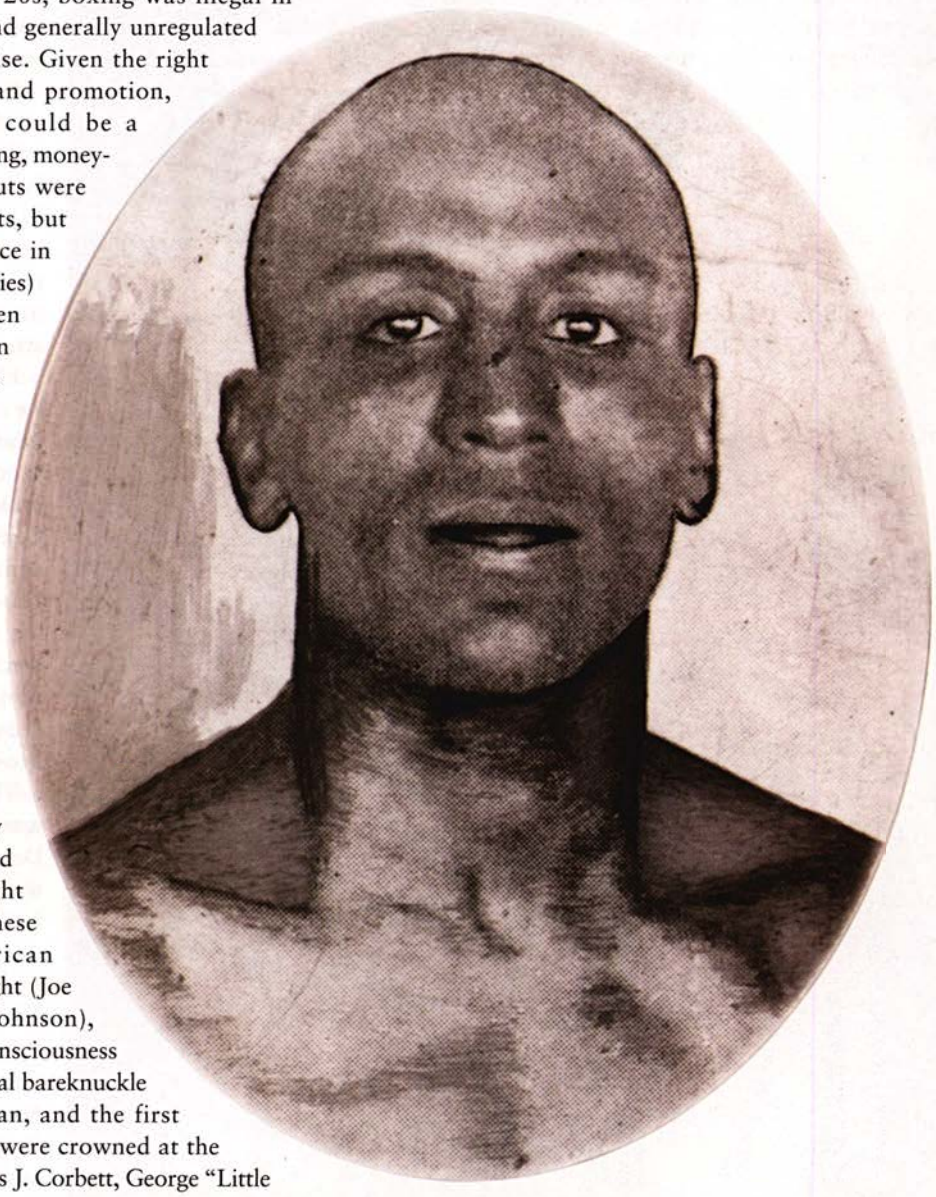
The Joe Louis-Jacobs partnership was just as prosperous as the Dempsey-Rickard union, and it lasted much longer, reminding Fleischer of boxing's everlasting ability to survive and reinvent itself. Rickard paved the way for impresarios such as Jacobs, Jim Norris, Harry Markson, George Parnassus, Herman Taylor, Bob Arum, Don King and Al Haymon. Dempsey was followed by Louis, Rocky Marciano, Muhammad Ali and Mike Tyson, as well as lighter-weight superstars: Henry Armstrong, Sugar Ray Robinson, Roberto Duran, Sugar Ray Leonard, Oscar De La Hoya, Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao.

Society and technology changes and evolves, decade by decade, but boxing's allure endures.

Below are snapshots of each decade, beginning with the two that preceded The Ring and served as the foundation of the sport the publication would cover for 100 years.

Promoter Mike Jacobs and Joe Louis ruled boxing from the mid-1930s through the 1940s.

EARLY 20TH CENTURY (1900s/1910s)



The legendary Joe Gans, who reigned as lightweight champion from 1902-1908.

Prior to the 1920s, boxing was illegal in most states and generally unregulated everywhere else. Given the right participants and promotion, a prizefight could be a crowd-attracting, money-making endeavor, and those bouts were sometimes covered by journalists, but many fights of this era took place in secret locations (to avoid authorities) or private sports clubs and often went undocumented. No-Decision bouts were common during these decades. Per the laws of several states, if a boxing match did not end in a knockout, there was no official verdict (this rule supposedly deterred fight fixes and illegal gambling), although sportswriters often identified who they believed won in their fight reports, birthing the term "newspaper decision."

Despite its savage and unruly image (or maybe because of it), America's fascination with boxing grew during the early 20th century as widely recognized champions in several key weight classes forged their legacies. These men, including the first African American champions at lightweight (Joe Gans) and heavyweight (Jack Johnson), were launched into the public's consciousness off of the shoulders of near-mythical bareknuckle pioneers such as John L. Sullivan, and the first standouts of the gloved era who were crowned at the tail-end of the 1800s, such as James J. Corbett, George "Little Chocolate" Dixon and Bob Fitzsimmons.

POSTER STARS

(the popular fighters who epitomized the spirit of the era) – Stanley Ketchel, Georges Carpentier (pictured, right), Terry McGovern, Benny Leonard

BEST FIGHTERS

(in order of their pro debuts) – Barbados Joe Walcott, Joe Gans, Philadelphia Jack O'Brien, Jack Johnson, Abe Attell, Jim Driscoll, Sam Langford, Jack Britton, Packey McFarland, Freddie Welsh, Ted "Kid" Lewis, Jimmy Wilde, Leonard

PROS

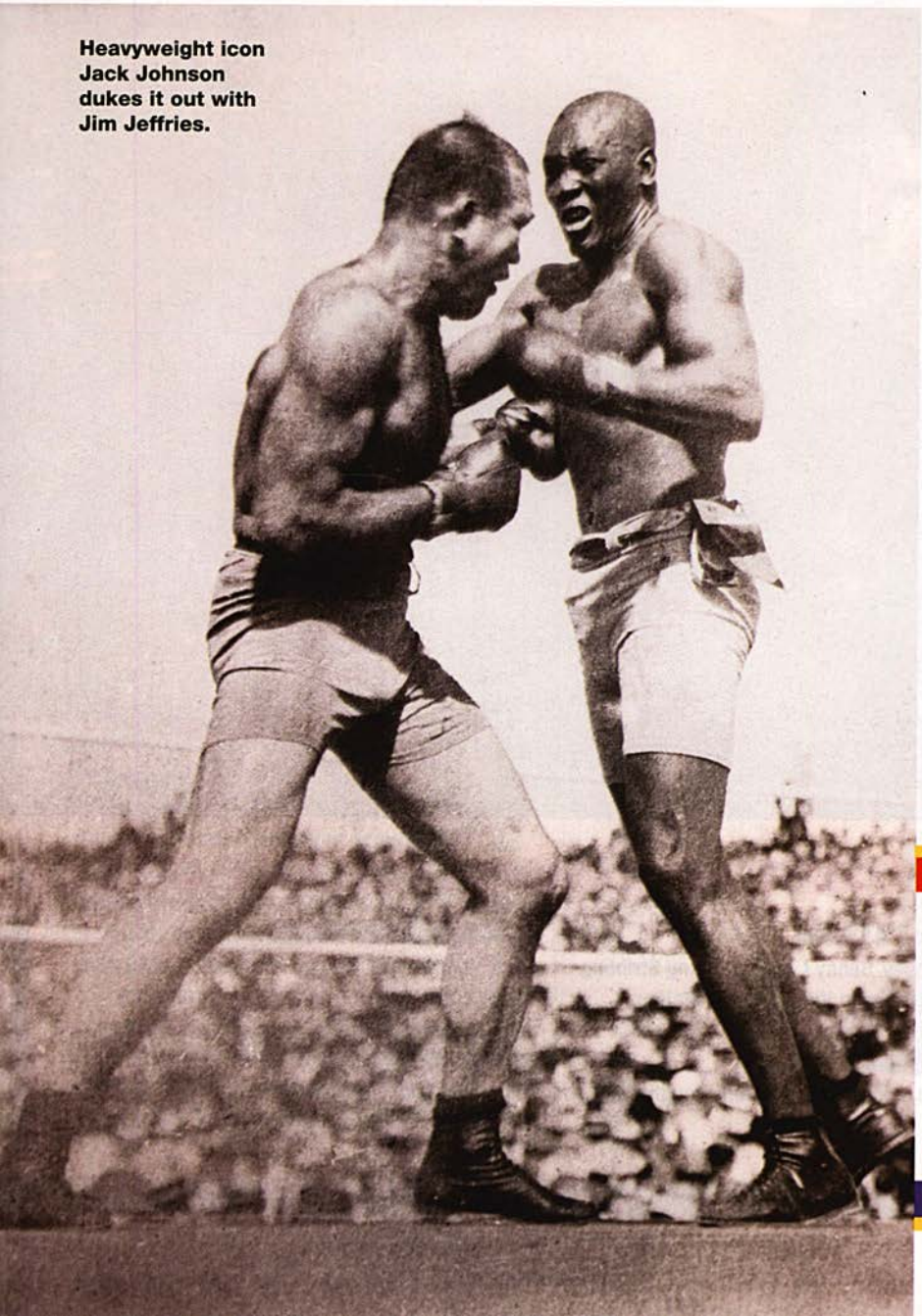
High-profile prizefights gradually moved from the private confines of athletic clubs to public areas, often in front of large crowds. The bouts were organized under prearranged rules and received nationwide newspaper coverage. The sport was supported by influential figures, such as sports columnist and cartoonist "Tad" Dorgan and even President Teddy Roosevelt, but it was mainly popularized through the larger-than-life exploits of the boldest and bravest men ever to don boxing gloves.

CONS

The sport was rife with racism, lawlessness and corruption. Police raids, spectator violence and post-fight riots (especially in the aftermath of mixed-race bouts) were common occurrences. Most fighter records from this era are either incomplete or inaccurate. Many of the best possible matchups never occurred; some champs went a very long time between title defenses.

MEDIA

Telegraph reports (the only form of live coverage), newspapers articles and cartoons/illustrations, Boxing News magazine (in the U.K.), The Police Gazette (which instituted the distribution of championship belts in the late 1880s) and Police News (in the U.S.).



Heavyweight icon Jack Johnson dukes it out with Jim Jeffries.

ECONOMICS

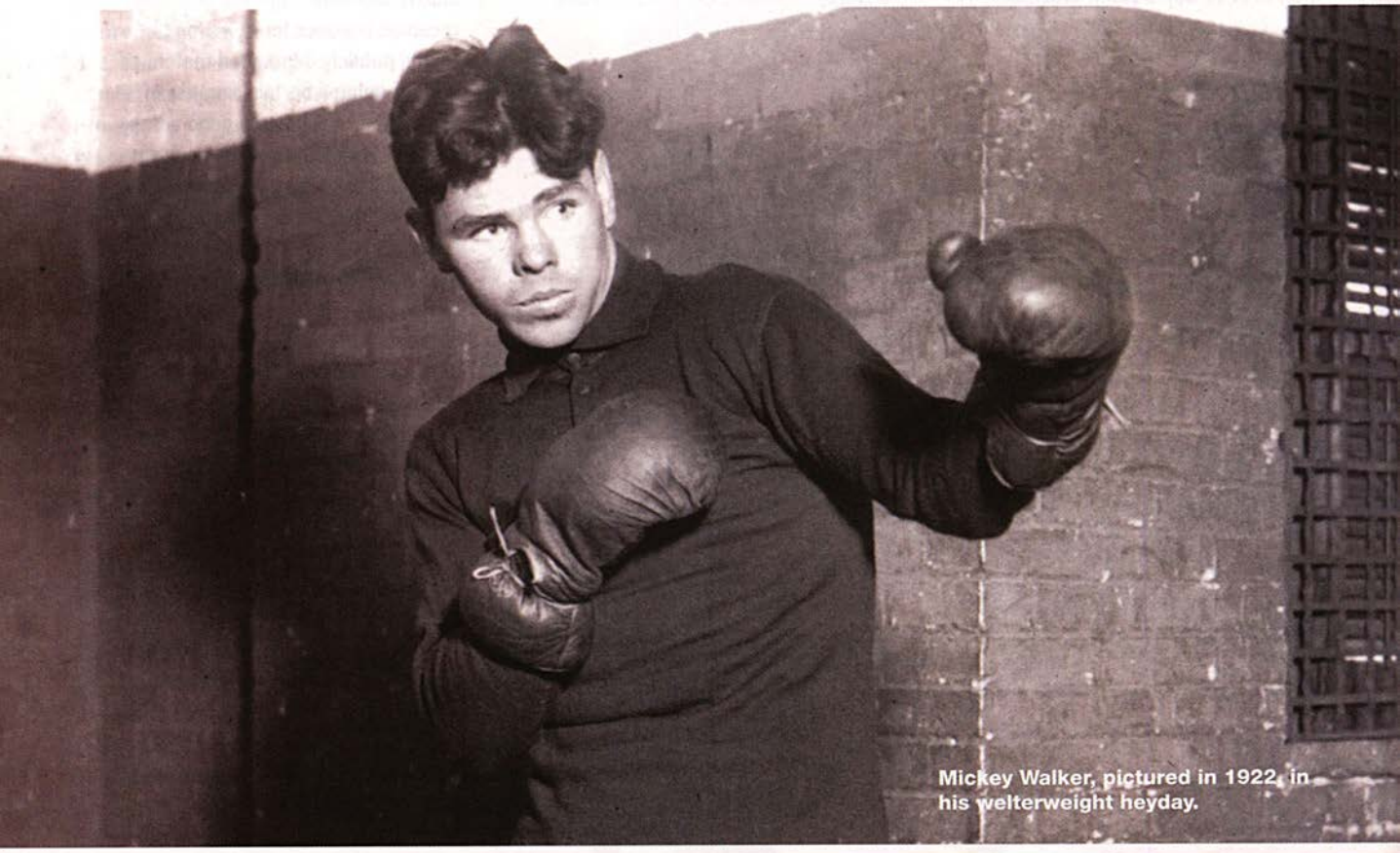
Money came from the live gate (ticket receipts) and, in rare cases, film rights. Top-level boxers received a share of ticket revenue. Famous fighters would receive guaranteed percentages of the purse (if the matchup was in high demand and was put up for bid among promoters, venues and athletic clubs). Big-name fighters also often received bonuses for agreeing to tough, publicly demanded matchups and for going a certain number of rounds, for putting on a good scrap, or if the promotion reached certain profit benchmarks. Occasionally, the iconic fighters of the era received a share of motion picture revenue if their fight was filmed and later distributed to theaters. Jack Johnson made 60 percent of the purse ($60,600) for his showdown with Jeffries, who received 40 percent ($40,400), according to *The Ring Encyclopedia and Record Book.* Johnson received a $50,000 share of motion picture revenue; Jeffries received $66,666 from the film rights. Johnson received a $25,000 signing bonus from Tex Rickard; Jeffries received $75,000 from the trailblazing promoter. Both fighters received an additional post-fight $10,000 bonus. Rickard and a business partner kept the gate receipts of $270,775, obtained from 15,760 paid admissions, plus a share from motion picture rights.

BIGGEST EVENTS

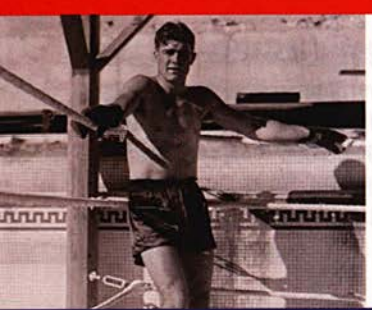
Joe Gans vs. Battling Nelson I (Sept. 3, 1906), Jack Johnson vs. Stanley Ketchel (Oct. 16, 1909), Jack Johnson vs. James J. Jeffries (July 4, 1910), Freddie Welsh vs. Benny Leonard III (May 28, 1917), Jess Willard vs. Jack Dempsey (July 4, 1919)

THE ROARING TWENTIES

The Walker Law, which legalized boxing in New York in 1920, led the way for other states to legalize public prizefighting under more stringent and uniform regulations sanctioned by athletic commissions. This ended the "No-Decision" era of the previous decade and set the stage for the emergence of great champions such as Harry Greb, Mickey Walker, Tiger Flowers and Pancho Villa. By the end of the decade boxing's popularity skyrocketed to the level of a mainstream sport, such as baseball. Dempsey was celebrated on the level of Babe Ruth. The first sanctioning organization, the National Boxing Association (known as the World Boxing Association decades later), was formed in 1921. The organization consisted of the athletic commissions of 15 states that wanted to be involved with big-time boxing. The athletic commission of New York, which had become the center of boxing in the U.S., did not join, and in later years and decades the NYSAC would occasionally recognize world champions apart from the NBA. Ring Magazine crowned its first champions, Dempsey and Villa (at flyweight), in 1922 and 1923.



Mickey Walker, pictured in 1922, in his welterweight heyday.



POSTER STARS

Jack Dempsey, Benny Leonard, Young Stribling (pictured), Pancho Villa, Mickey Walker

BEST FIGHTERS

Harry Greb, Gene Tunney, Tommy Loughran, Walker

BIGGEST EVENTS

Jack Dempsey vs. Georges Carpentier (July 2, 1921), Harry Greb vs. Gene Tunney I (May 23, 1922), Dempsey vs. Luis Firpo (Sept. 14, 1923), Greb vs. Mickey Walker (July 2, 1925), Greb vs. Tiger Flowers I (Feb. 26, 1926), Dempsey vs. Tunney I and II (Sept. 23, 1926, Sept. 22, 1927).

PROS

State sanctioned/regulated bouts with round limits (no more "fights to the finish") became the norm. Dempsey, a bona fide superstar, emerges. Tex Rickard, enabled by a legal sport and Dempsey, takes boxing promotion (and the amount of money it can generate) to another level. The Ring is founded by sportswriter/editor Nat Fleischer. Trainers/cornermen Ray Arcel and Whitey Bimstein began legendary careers that would span decades.

CONS

Color lines were still clearly drawn, especially in the glamour division where Dempsey was king. Champions willing to face top African American fighters, as middleweight king Greb was, were rare.

MEDIA

Newspapers, The Ring magazine, film and, in rare cases, radio.

ECONOMICS

Money made and distributed in boxing mostly came from the gate. Dempsey generated considerable revenue for the time, and motion picture rights were sometimes part of his contracts due to his overwhelming popularity. Dempsey took part in four heavyweight title bouts that grossed more than $1 million: vs. Firpo ($1,188,603), vs. Carpentier ($1,789,238) and both Tunney bouts ($1,895,733 for first fight, $2,658,660 for the rematch). Dempsey was guaranteed $300,000 (plus $4,000 from movies) for Carpentier, who was guaranteed $200,000. Dempsey's share from the Firpo clash was $509,000 (which included movie revenue). Dempsey made $717,000 for the first bout with Tunney, who took in $200,000. However, Tunney was wise with their rematch, in which he was paid a percentage of the record live gate that amounted to $990,445. Dempsey was paid a guaranteed $425,000, plus $25,000 from film rights.

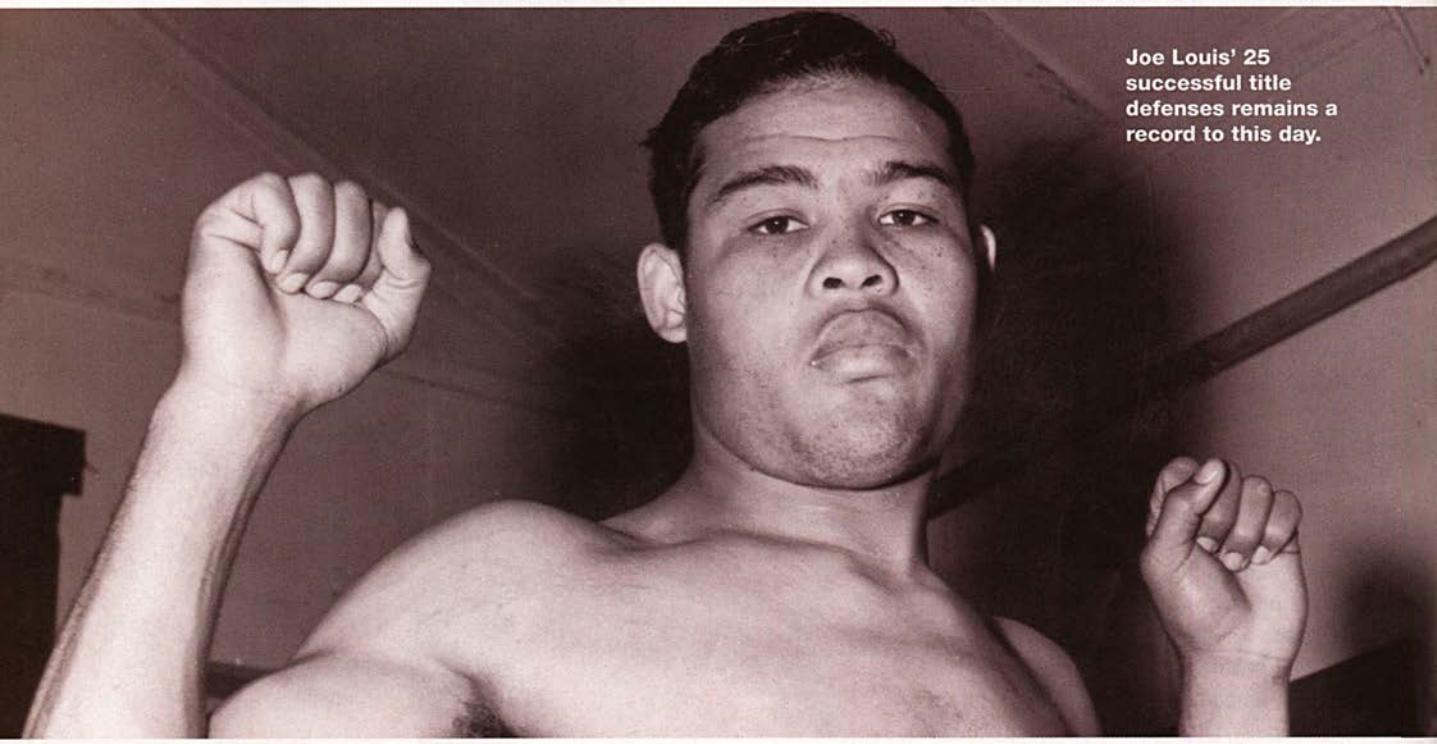
Jack Dempsey transcended the sport and was the heavyweight division's first true boxing superstar.

THE DEPRESSION ERA

Despite hard economic times, the 1930s was arguably the peak of boxing's popularity among "casual" sports fans in America as well as the dominance of American fighters against global competition. The powerful New York State Athletic Commission often operated as a de facto sanctioning body during this era. Many sportswriters viewed its championship recognition as just as legit as the NBA world title if not moreso.

The first crossover fame for African American and Latino champions occurred during the 1930s as the talent and accomplishments of Panama's Al Brown, Cuba's Kid Chocolate, Mexico's Baby Arizmendi, and Black Americans Henry Armstrong and Joe Louis, could not be ignored or downplayed by the public or the mainstream media. It can be argued that the 1938 rematch between Louis and Max Schmeling was the most significant sporting event of the century and marked the first time a Black athlete became a hero with much of the American population. Louis paved the way for African American sports pioneers like Jackie Robinson (whom he helped get into officer school while in the military).

The sport lacked a dominant heavyweight champ for much of the decade (until Louis got his mighty hands on the title in 1937), but it featured marvelous talents, including Lou Ambers, Jimmy McLarnin and Billy Conn, as well as showbiz-worthy personalities such as heavyweight hitter Max Baer and light heavyweight stylist "Slapsie" Maxie Rosenbloom, who entertained audiences in and out of the ring.



Joe Louis' 25 successful title defenses remains a record to this day.

POSTER STARS

Max Baer (pictured), Joe Louis, Jimmy McLarnin, Henry Armstrong

BEST FIGHTERS

Young Corbett III, Panama Al Brown, McLarnin, Tony Canzoneri, Baby Arizmendi, Kid Chocolate, Barney Ross, Armstrong, Lou Ambers, Louis

BIGGEST EVENTS

Max Baer vs. Max Schmeling (June 8, 1933), Jimmy McLarnin vs. Barney Ross I (May 28, 1934), Baer vs. Primo Carnera (June 14, 1934), Joe Louis vs. Baer (Sept. 24, 1935), Barney Ross vs. Henry Armstrong (May 31, 1938), Louis vs. Schmeling II (June 22, 1938)

PROS

Boxing's popularity grew among the general public until it was second only to baseball in America.

CONS

The money generated by boxing's standouts began to attract the attention of organized crime figures/families, and the sport, which was often fueled by ethnic rivalries, was still under the heavy hand of racism, although truly special talents, such as Kid Chocolate, Armstrong, Arizmendi, Louis and light heavyweight John Henry Lewis were able to break through the glass ceiling.

MEDIA

Newspapers, The Ring Magazine and radio.

ECONOMICS

Gate, film.

Henry Armstrong (right) fires at will against fellow Hall of Famer Baby Arizmendi.

THE GOLDEN AGE

Some of the greatest boxers of all time turned pro in 1940 and quickly established themselves as the best fighters in their respective divisions despite the ominous backdrop of World War II. Among them are Sugar Ray Robinson, Willie Pep, Ezzard Charles, Ike Williams and Jimmy Bivins. As the decade progressed, they were joined by Jake LaMotta, Joe Brown, Rocky Graziano, Sandy Saddler, Kid Gavilan, Harold Johnson, Carmen Basilio, and Joey Giardello. Many of the standouts of the mid-to-late 1930s also remained as top attractions, most notably heavyweight champ Joe Louis, but also light heavyweight champ Billy Conn, middleweight champ Tony Zale, Henry Armstrong, and rugged Fritzie Zivic. They fought often. They fought hard. They fought everybody in and around their respective weight classes. They're all in the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

The original pound-for-pound king, Sugar Ray Robinson.

POSTER STARS

Joe Louis, Sugar Ray Robinson, Rocky Graziano (pictured), Beau Jack, Marcel Cerdan

BEST FIGHTERS

Archie Moore, Manuel Ortiz, Robinson, Willie Pep, Ezzard Charles, Ike Williams

BIGGEST EVENTS

Joe Louis vs. Billy Conn I (June 18, 1941), Beau Jack vs. Bob Montgomery IV (Aug. 4, 1944), Tony Zale vs. Rocky Graziano I, II and III (1946-1948), Zale vs. Marcel Cerdan (Sept. 21, 1948), Pep vs. Sandy Saddler I and II (Oct. 29, 1948; Feb. 11, 1949)

PROS

Widespread popularity and demand led to an unprecedented (and unequaled) number of boxing events per month/year and fighter activity.

CONS

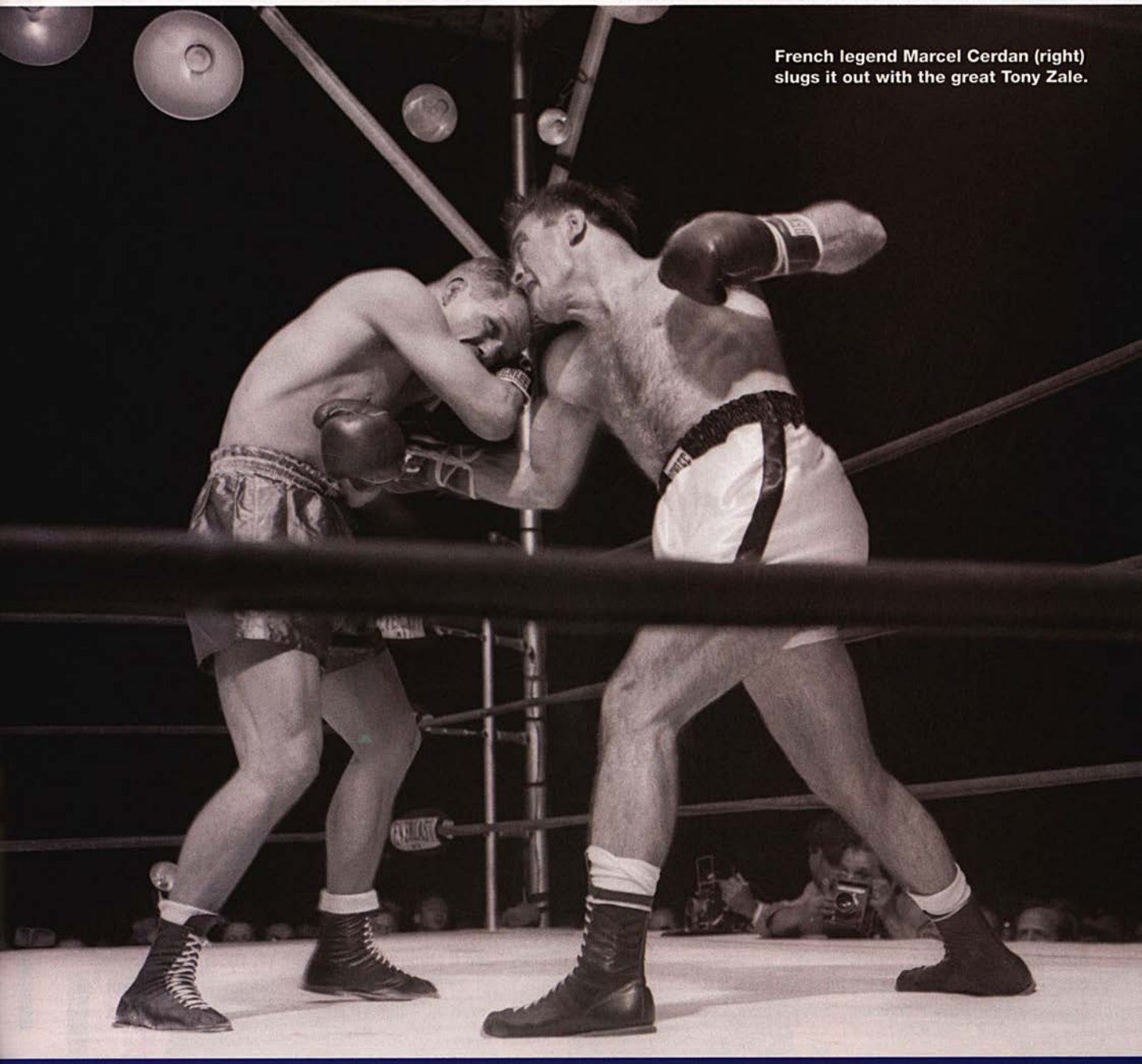
World War II put the welterweight, middleweight, light heavyweight and heavyweight world titles on ice for almost four years. Organized crime gradually infiltrated the sport. Mobsters Frankie Carbo and Frank "Blinky" Palermo became deeply involved in the thriving East Coast boxing scene as promoters/managers. Though some Black fighters broke through the glass ceiling, many world-class African Americans, especially the middleweight-to-light heavyweight standouts known as "Murderers' Row," including Jimmy Bivins, Lloyd Marshall, Holman Williams, and Charley Burley, were denied title shots.

MEDIA

Radio, newspapers, The Ring.

ECONOMICS

Gate, radio, commercials/program sponsors for radio (such as the Gillette Cavalcade of Sports), and in some cases, film rights.



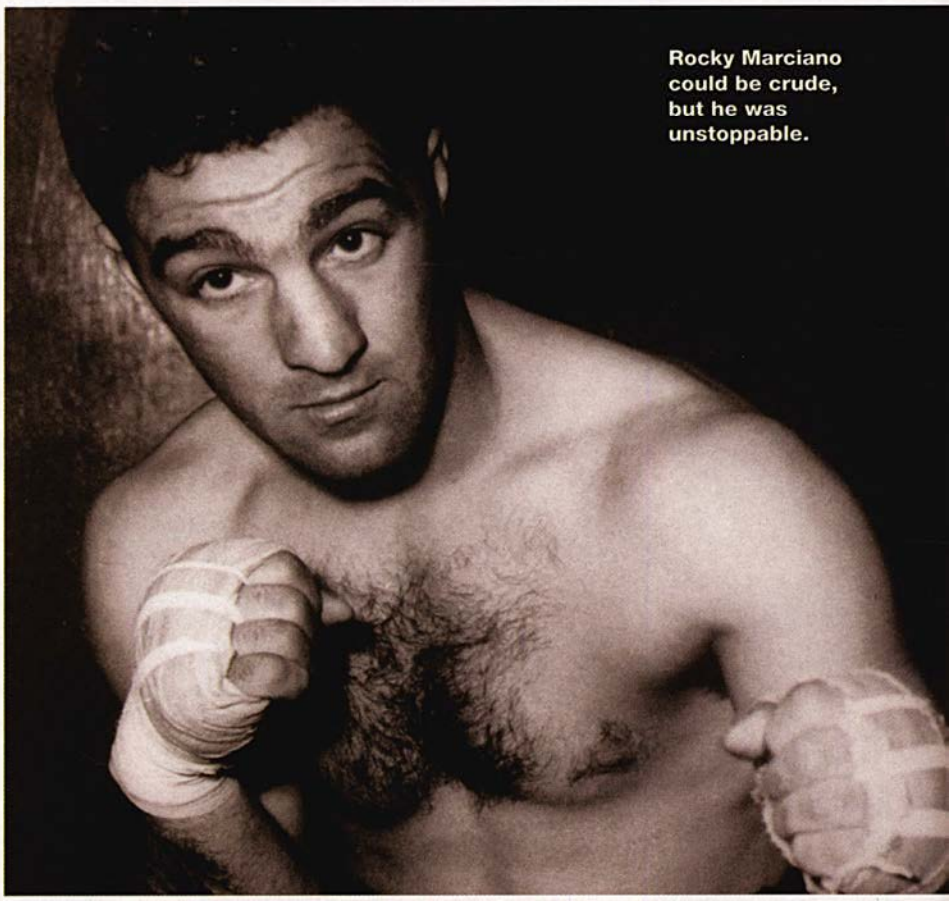
French legend Marcel Cerdan (right) slugs it out with the great Tony Zale.

THE TV AGE

The 1950s were led by two undersized but popular heavyweight champions and an aging legend with no shortage of rough-and-tumble rivals in the way of his quest to regain the middleweight title (again and again and again).

Rocky Marciano, who retired Joe Louis in brutal fashion, appeared clumsy and limited but all he did was win, outwilling and overwhelming all competition during his heavyweight title reign from 1952-1955. The rugged Italian American slugger from Brockton, Massachusetts, was a breath of fresh air following a late 1940s/early '50s round-robin between the aging Louis, Ezzard Charles and Jersey Joe Walcott. Floyd Patterson, a shy but pleasant African American New Yorker who won gold (in the 165-pound division) at the 1952 Olympic Games, became the youngest heavyweight champ when he stopped Archie Moore to earn the vacant heavyweight title in 1956. Patterson was embraced by Black and White Americans during a somewhat protected title reign that was shrewdly guided by trainer/manager Cus D'Amato.

Robinson closed out his six-bout series with Jake LaMotta in 1951, lifting the middleweight championship via bloody 13-round stoppage, but the pound-for-pound king lost and regained the title from Randy Turpin before the end of the year. After a failed bid for the light heavyweight title in 1952 (more from heat exhaustion than anything Joey Maxim did), Robinson "retired" to showbiz, taking a two-and-a-half-year break before returning in 1955, regaining the championship from old foe Bobo Olson and thrilling fans as he played hot potato with the title with Gene Fullmer and Carmen Basilio from 1957-1958. Robinson wasn't the only world-class veteran to make headlines during the '50s. Fellow 1940s standouts Kid Gavilan, Joe Brown, Jimmy Carter and Archie Moore finally got their hands on world titles in this decade. All of the aforementioned fighters, as well as contenders in several weight classes, received unprecedented television coverage as TV sets became more affordable and prevalent in American households.



Rocky Marciano could be crude, but he was unstoppable.

POSTER STARS

Rocky Marciano, Floyd Patterson, Ray Robinson, Ingemar Johansson

BEST FIGHTERS

Archie Moore, Ray Robinson, Willie Pep, Kid Gavilan, Sandy Saddler, Harold Johnson, Pascual Perez

BIGGEST EVENTS

Jake LaMotta vs. Ray Robinson VI (Feb. 14, 1951), Randy Turpin vs. Robinson II (Sept. 12, 1951), Joey Maxim vs. Robinson (June 25, 1952), Rocky Marciano vs. Roland LaStarza II (Sept. 24, 1953), Marciano vs. Ezzard Charles I and II (June 17, 1954; Sept. 17, 1954), Marciano vs. Archie Moore (Sept. 21, 1955), Robinson vs. Carmen Basilio I (Sept. 23, 1957), Floyd Patterson vs. Ingemar Johansson I (June 26, 1959)

PROS

Busy fighters, many heated rivalries, and better live coverage thanks to TV.

CONS

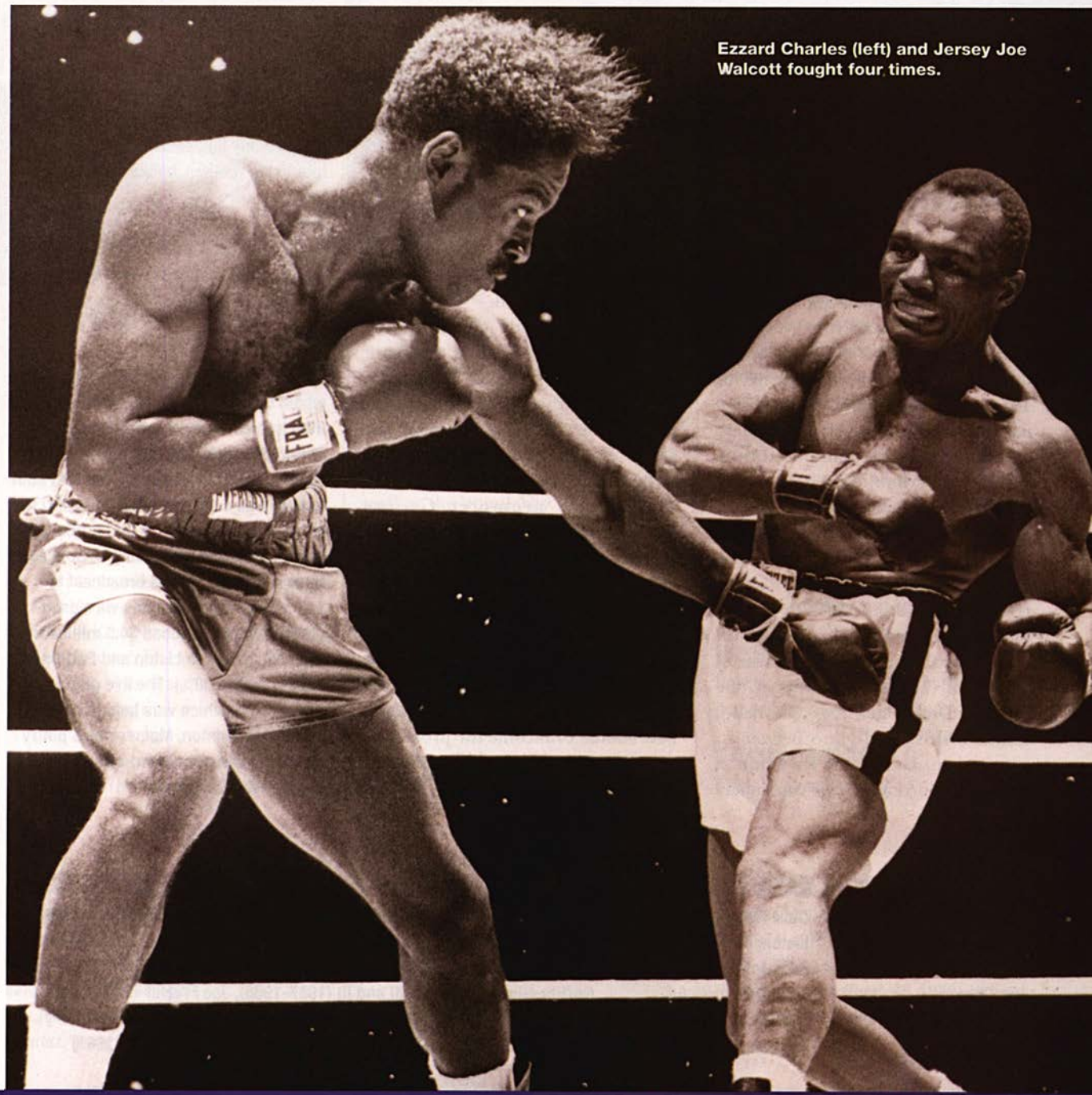
Organized crime practically ran the sport as several underworld figures had infiltrated boxing's most powerful promotional organization, the International Boxing Club (IBC), which was the exclusive promoter at Madison Square Garden, Chicago Stadium, Olympia Stadium in Detroit and St. Louis Arena.

MEDIA COVERAGE

Television, radio and newspapers. Sports Illustrated, which was established in 1954, included boxing in its coverage. Boxing Illustrated was founded by Stanley Weston in 1958.

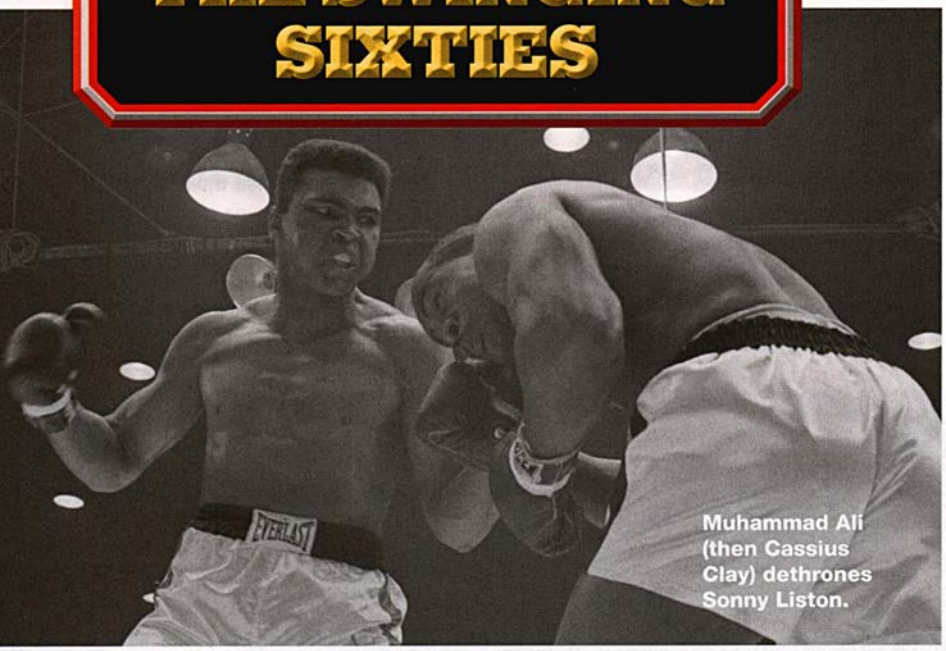
ECONOMICS

Gate, TV license fees (the IBC received $90,000 a week from NBC and CBS for the rights to televise their shows), commercials/program sponsors for both radio and TV (such as the Gillette Cavalcade of Sports and Pabst Blue Ribbon Bouts/The Wednesday Night Fights), and film rights.



Ezzard Charles (left) and Jersey Joe Walcott fought four times.

THE SWINGING SIXTIES



Muhammad Ali (then Cassius Clay) dethrones Sonny Liston.

Just when it seemed like a mob-controlled ex-con would reign as an unstoppable heavyweight force the entire decade, brash young Cassius Clay changed the course of boxing history by upsetting Sonny Liston in 1964. Clay immediately changed his name to Muhammad Ali and became a polarizing figure in and out of the ring, but his boundless talent and personality dominated the sport (even during his three-year exile due to his religious/moral stance on the military draft). Although Ali's future arch-rival, Joe Frazier, rocketed to the top of the division in explosive fashion during his absence, the decade wasn't all about the heavyweights. Gene Fullmer, Dick Tiger, Joey Giardello, Emile Griffith and Nino Benvenuti engaged in a series of title bouts, with a supporting cast of contenders that included Rubin Carter and Joey Archer, that kept the spotlight on the middleweight division.

The NBA changed its name to the World Boxing Association (WBA) in 1962 to reflect boxing's growth in Mexico, South America, Australia, Asia and Africa. One year later the World Boxing Council (WBC) was formed, with the help of influential West Coast promoter George Parnassus, with the goal of better representation among lighter-weight fighters from Latin America.

The emergence of closed-circuit broadcasts (often referred to as "theater TV" at the time), which brought live boxing to movie theaters, arenas and other venues, created a new source of income for promoters and star fighters that immediately dwarfed ticket revenue.

PROS

The government finally cracked down on organized crime involvement in boxing, breaking up the IBC and eventually convicting Frankie Carbo and Blinky Palermo of extortion and menacing. Boxing grew in Latin America and Asia. Closed-circuit delivered live boxing broadcasts to fans nationwide.

CONS

The ring deaths of Benny "Kid" Paret (which was nationally televised) and Davey Moore brought about calls for the abolition of professional boxing. By 1964 all three major networks had canceled their weekly boxing series as national interest in football, hockey and tennis increased.

MEDIA COVERAGE

TV, closed-circuit events, newspapers, magazines

ECONOMICS

Gate, TV and closed-circuit revenue, which changes the sport. There was little interest in the contracted Liston-Patterson rematch. Liston annihilated Patterson within a round in the first bout and he was expected to do so again. The rematch attracted 7,816 and produced a gate of $286,190, according to BoxRec. However, the fight was broadcast to 143 locations in 109 cities via closed-circuit, which produced $4.5 million in revenue (of which Liston and Patterson each received 30%). The live gate for Ali-Liston II, which was held in a youth center in Lewiston, Maine, was a paltry $93,000. However, closed-circuit brought in around $1.3 million.

POSTER STARS

Cassius Clay/ Muhammad Ali, Emile Griffith, Nino Benvenuti, Jose Torres

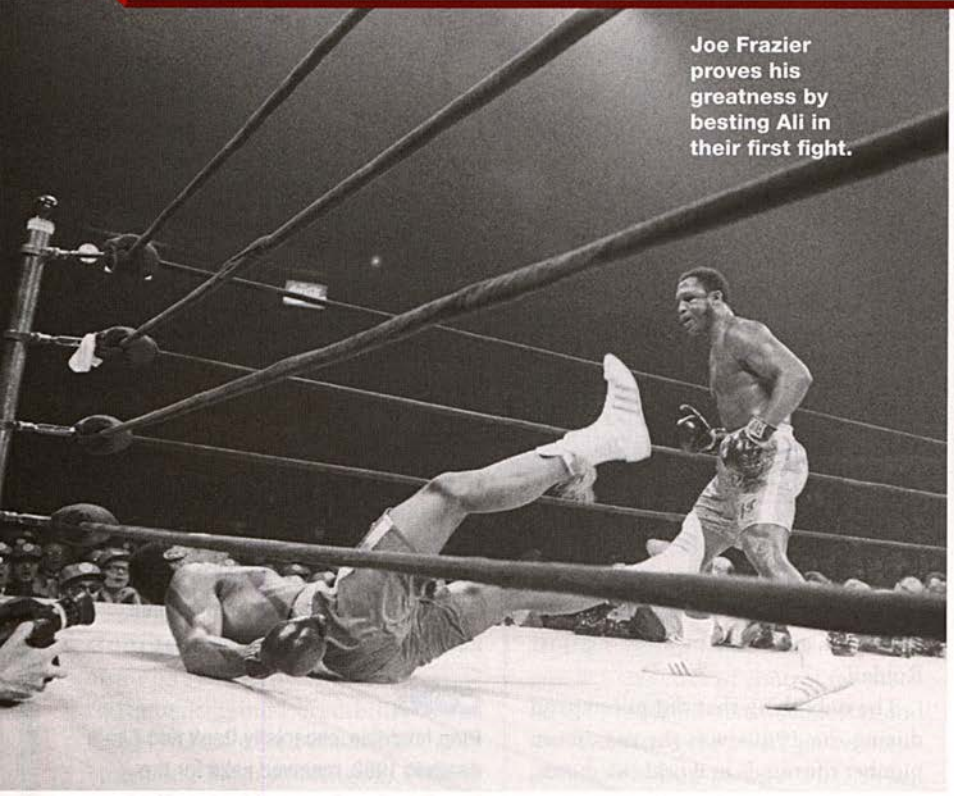
BEST FIGHTERS

Dick Tiger, Sonny Liston, Carlos Ortiz, Eder Jofre, Griffith, Ismael Laguna, Ali, Benvenuti, Ruben Olivares

BIGGEST EVENTS

Jose Becerra-Alphonse Halimi/Carlos Ortiz-Battling Torres (Feb. 4, 1960), Floyd Patterson-Sonny Liston I and II (Sept. 25, 1962; July 22, 1963), Liston-Cassius Clay I (Feb. 25, 1964), Ali-Cleveland Williams (Nov. 14, 1966), Emile Griffith-Nino Benvenuti I, II and III (1967-1968), Joe Frazier-Buster Mathis (doubleheader with Griffith-Benvenuti III - March 4, 1968), Frazier-Jerry Quarry I (June 23, 1969), Lionel Rose-Ruben Olivares (Aug. 22, 1969)

THE SENSATIONAL SEVENTIES



Joe Frazier proves his greatness by besting Ali in their first fight.

The decade began with the biggest sporting event of the 20th century, the first clash between Joe Frazier and the comebacking Muhammad Ali, which ushered in a heavyweight golden age that 1968 Olympic gold medalist George Foreman, Ken Norton, Larry Holmes, Jimmy Young, Jerry Quarry, Jimmy Ellis, Ron Lyle, Earnie Shavers and others took part in.

The networks had a renewed interest in boxing thanks to the success of the 1976 U.S. Olympic team and professional potential of its stars, such as Sugar Ray Leonard; as well as the popularity of West Coast bangers like Bobby Chacon and Danny "Little Red" Lopez.

The rise of non-American champions that began in the 1960s with pound-for-pound level talents, such as Ruben Olivares, Eder Jofre and Fighting Harada, continued in the '70s as Jose Napoles, Carlos Monzon, Antonio Cervantes, Ken Buchanan, Roberto Duran and Pipino Cuevas made headlines.

PROS

The success of the 1976 U.S. Olympic squad gave the sport a boost in America, as did the popularity of the film *Rocky*. Ali evolved into a beloved superstar/ celebrity during his second title reign. Boxing returned to network TV.

CONS

Don King's corrupt U.S. championships series (and The Ring's involvement) burned ABC and gave the sport a black eye it did not need. Ali was now an aging champ who shouldn't have been absorbing punishment by the late '70s.

MEDIA

Newspapers, TV, closed-circuit, magazines

ECONOMICS

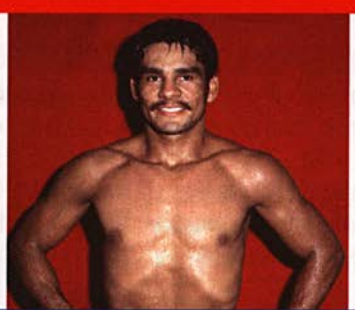
Gate, TV, closed-circuit

POSTER STARS

Muhammad Ali, Roberto Duran (pictured), Sugar Ray Leonard

BEST FIGHTERS

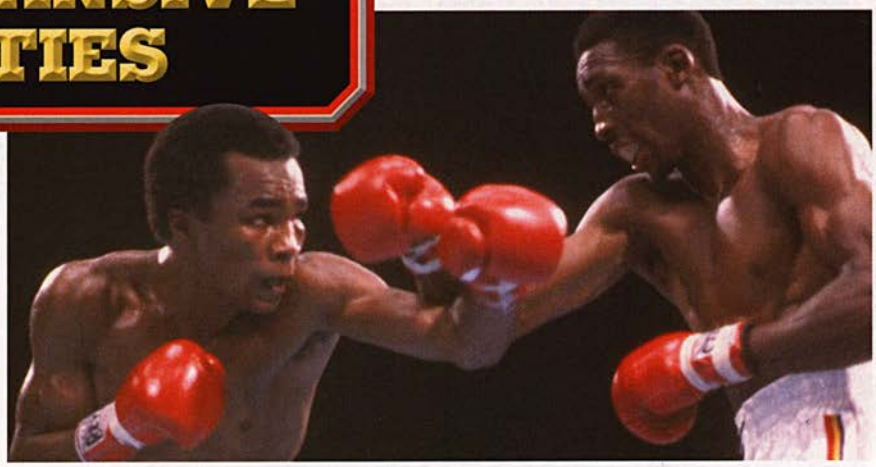
Ali, Joe Frazier, Duran, Carlos Monzon, Wilfred Benitez, Larry Holmes, Leonard



BIGGEST EVENTS

Joe Frazier-Muhammad Ali I, II and III (1971, 1974, 1975), George Foreman-Ali (Oct. 30, 1974), Ken Norton-Holmes (June 9, 1978), Ali-Spinks II (Sept. 15, 1978), Wilfred Benitez-Sugar Ray Leonard (Nov. 30, 1979)

THE EXPANSIVE EIGHTIES



With Muhammad Ali's retirement, the sport was carried by a legendary round-robin between the Four Kings – Sugar Ray Leonard, Roberto Duran, Thomas Hearns and Marvelous Marvin Hagler – that spanned nine years and four divisions (welterweight to super middleweight). Wilfred Benitez, Pipino Cuevas, Carlos Palomino, Iran Barkley and Juan Roldan, among other standouts, did their part as the formidable supporting cast to the superstar quartet. By the end of the decade, the public would once again turn its attention to the glamour division when Mike Tyson replaced Larry Holmes as the dominant heavyweight champion.

The number of major sanctioning organizations doubled when the International Boxing Federation (IBF), formed in 1983, and the World Boxing Organization (WBO), created in 1988, began doing worldwide business along with the more established WBA and WBC. The number of weight classes also increased with the creation of the cruiserweight and super middleweight divisions.

More titles and weight classes encouraged more division hopping from the fighters that were talented enough to accomplish such feats. The measure of "greatness" gradually shifted from dominating one weight class to winning belts in multiple weight classes. The beginning of this trend could be attributed to a 28-day span in 1981 when Alexis Arguello and Benitez became the first three-division champions in nearly 43 years. The positive press attention they received planted a seed, and Hearns, even before he won his first championship, envisioned himself as boxing's first four-division champion, which he achieved in 1987 against Roldan.

The only thing that did not expand during the 1980s was the maximum number of rounds in world title bouts, as the championship distance was eventually dropped from 15 rounds to 12. The WBC was the first sanctioning body to enact this change and was eventually followed by the WBA and IBF.

The 1980s also witnessed the transition from closed-circuit theater broadcasts to pay-per-view telecasts, which allowed fans to watch high-level fights from the comfort of their home. This transition expanded the potential audience, and, in turn, the money that could be made by all concerned, especially fighters.

PROS

HBO Sports increased its boxing programming, investing heavily in Tyson's rise, while Showtime began its fruitful relationship with the sport in 1986 with the Hagler-John Mugabi middleweight championship.

CONS

Ring fatalities, especially Deuk Koo Kim's death in 1982, renewed calls for the banning of professional boxing. The four-belt era began to confuse casual fans, as boxing gradually moved off of free network TV and onto basic and premium cable.

MEDIA

TV (network and cable), newspapers, magazines. KO Magazine was founded by Stanley Weston in 1980.

ECONOMICS

TV/cable/subscription cable licensing fees, closed-circuit, sponsorship (TV and event), early PPV.

POSTER STARS

Mike Tyson, Leonard, Duran, Hearns, Hagler, Ray Mancini

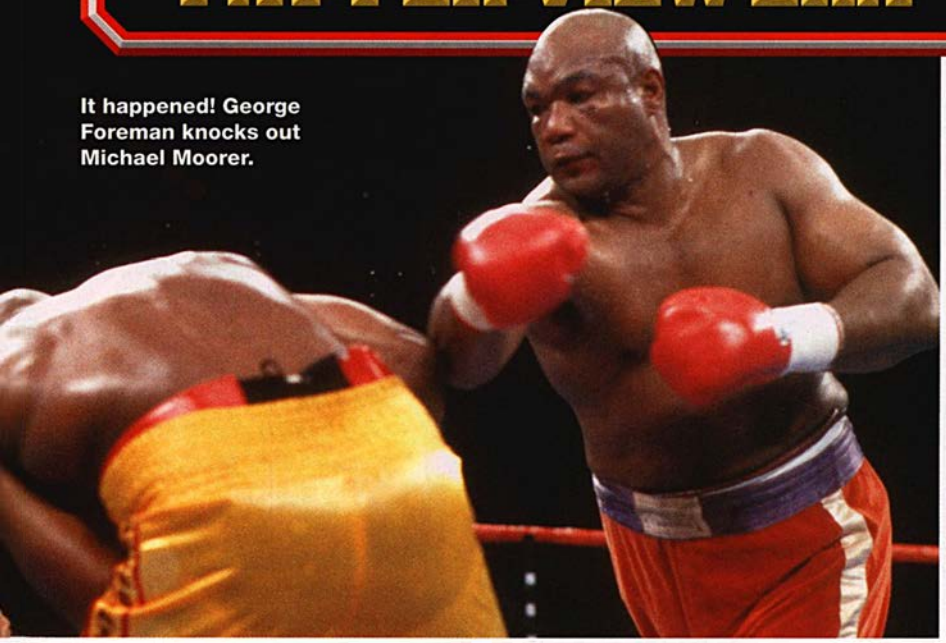
BEST FIGHTERS

Larry Holmes, Hagler, Wilfredo Gomez, Salvador Sanchez, Leonard, Michael Spinks, Hearns, Hector Camacho, Mike McCallum, Tyson, Donald Curry, Pernell Whitaker, Michael Nunn, Evander Holyfield

BIGGEST EVENTS

Ray Leonard-Roberto Duran I and II (June 20 and Nov. 25, 1980), Salvador Sanchez-Wilfredo Gomez (Aug. 21, 1981), Leonard-Thomas Hearns I (Sept. 21, 1981), Holmes-Gerry Cooney (June 11, 1982), Marvin Hagler-Roberto Duran (Nov. 10, 1983), Hagler-Hearns (April 15, 1985), Hagler-Leonard (April 6, 1987), Mike Tyson-Holmes (Jan. 22, 1988), Tyson-Michael Spinks (June 27, 1988)

THE PAY-PER-VIEW ERA



It happened! George Foreman knocks out Michael Moorer.

George Foreman's improbable comeback following a 10-year retirement gained credibility when he gave undisputed champ Evander Holyfield a stern challenge in a losing effort that made for a surprisingly successful pay-per-view event in 1991. Foreman's title-regaining KO of Michael Moorer three years later made him a modern-day folk hero. However, the punching preacher wasn't the only heavyweight making waves during the '90s. Exciting young guns, including Lennox Lewis, Riddick Bowe, Ray Mercer, Tommy Morrison and Moorer joined veterans such as Foreman, Larry Holmes, Tim Witherspoon and Oliver McCall to create a second golden age for the division.

And though Mike Tyson's career and life spun out of control for much of the decade, he remained a star and would prove to be a PPV powerhouse during the mid-to-late '90s. Tyson was joined by the sole gold medalist from the 1992 U.S. Olympic team, Oscar De La Hoya, whose crossover popularity with women and the Latino market helped shift boxing's power base from the East Coast to the west. De La Hoya's 1999 showdown with Felix Trinidad set a PPV buys and revenue record for non-heavyweight fights. The Golden Boy shared the No. 1 spot atop the mythical pound-for-pound rankings with Pernell Whitaker and Roy Jones Jr., who was nigh-untouchable during the '90s.

BIGGEST EVENT(S)

Evander Holyfield vs. George Foreman (April 19, 1991), Julio Cesar Chavez vs. Hector Camacho (Sept. 12, 1992), Pernell Whitaker vs. Chavez (Sept. 10, 1993), Mike Tyson vs. Peter McNeeley (Aug. 19, 1995), Oscar De La Hoya vs. Chavez I and II (June 7, 1996; Sept. 18, 1997), Tyson vs. Holyfield I and II (Nov. 9, 1996; June 28, 1997), De La Hoya vs. Trinidad (Sept. 18, 1999), Lennox Lewis vs. Holyfield I and II (March 13 and Nov. 13, 1999)

PROS

HBO and Showtime helped cultivate and promote star fighters who were usually willing to face the best opponents in and around their weight classes. These fights garnered strong ratings and PPV buys for the biggest events.

CONS

Boxing moved off of free TV to subscription cable and pay-per-view platforms, shrinking the casual fan audience and marginalizing the sport. Controversies such as unpopular decisions (the Whitaker-Chavez/Lewis-Holyfield draws) and bad behavior (Tyson's infamous "bite fight" vs. Holyfield) encouraged mainstream sports editors with newspapers and TV to ignore the sport.

MEDIA

Premium cable, pay-per-view, newspapers, magazine, the internet

ECONOMICS

PPV, premium cable license fees, sponsorship (TV and event)

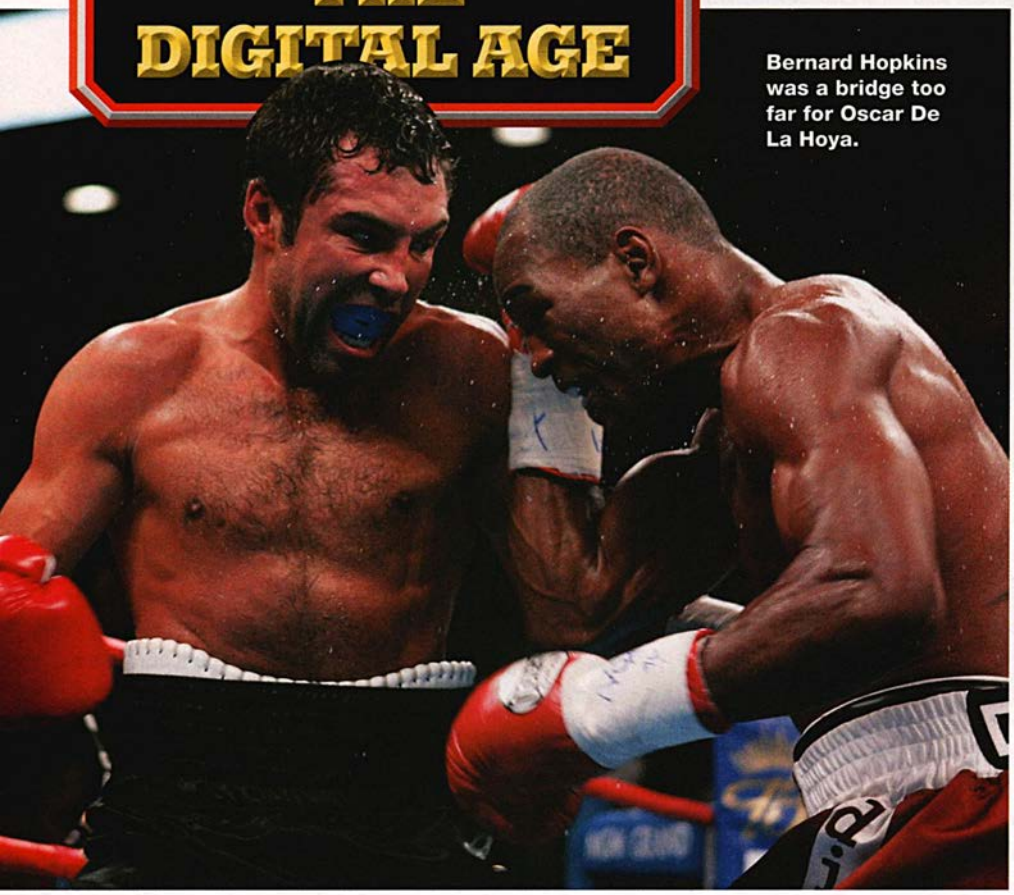
POSTER STARS

George Foreman, Oscar De La Hoya, Mike Tyson, Evander Holyfield, Naseem Hamed (pictured)

BEST FIGHTERS

Julio Cesar Chavez, Orlando Canizales, Pernell Whitaker, Holyfield, Ricardo Lopez, Terry Norris, James Toney, Roy Jones Jr. (pictured), Felix Trinidad, De La Hoya, Floyd Mayweather Jr., Johnny Tapia

THE DIGITAL AGE



Bernard Hopkins was a bridge too far for Oscar De La Hoya.

What was considered "New Media" at the tail end of the 1990s evolved into the sport's dominant coverage by the mid-2000s. Hardcore fans demanded daily, even hourly updates on their favorite sport, and magazines and newspapers struggled to keep up with websites that were devoted to breaking boxing news and exclusive multimedia content.

The comprehensive and specialized coverage that websites such as HouseofBoxing.com, MaxBoxing.com and BoxingTalk.com provided fans often shined a spotlight on foreign fighters (especially those who partnered up with notable American trainers and held camps in the U.S., as Manny Pacquiao did), as well as underdogs and mavericks such as Shane Mosley (prior to his showdown with Oscar De La Hoya) and Bernard Hopkins. Boxers who were media savvy, as Fernardo Vargas and Floyd Mayweather Jr. were, used the internet to help shape their images and narratives in ways that helped raise their profiles while feeding the pay-per-view business model.

BIGGEST EVENT(S)

Oscar De La Hoya vs. Shane Mosley I and II (June 17, 2000; Sept. 13, 2003), Felix Trinidad vs. Bernard Hopkins (Sept. 29, 2001), Lennox Lewis vs. Mike Tyson (June 8, 2002), De La Hoya vs. Fernando Vargas (Sept. 14, 2002), Hopkins vs. De La Hoya (Sept. 18, 2004), De La Hoya-Mayweather (May 5, 2007), De La Hoya vs. Manny Pacquiao (December 6, 2008), Ricky Hatton vs. Pacquiao (May 2, 2009), Miguel Cotto vs. Pacquiao (Nov. 14, 2009)

PROS

The internet came of age, increasing boxing coverage and creating online communities for hardcore fans.

CONS

Newspapers and magazines began to die on the vine as internet usage increased among the younger generation, which only served to further marginalize boxing. Major promoters formed exclusive alliances with networks, which complicated and prolonged certain marquee matchups from happening.

MEDIA

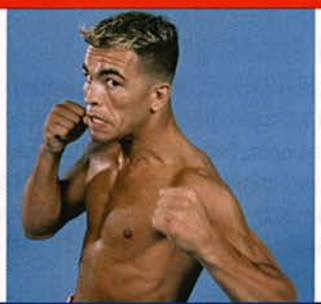
The internet, with limited, sporadic newspaper coverage.

ECONOMICS

PPV revenue, premium cable license fees, sponsorship

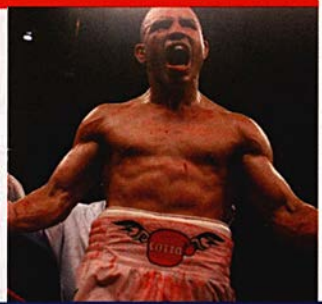
POSTER STARS

Roy Jones Jr., Oscar De La Hoya, Floyd Mayweather Jr., Manny Pacquiao, Arturo Gatti (pictured), Ricky Hatton

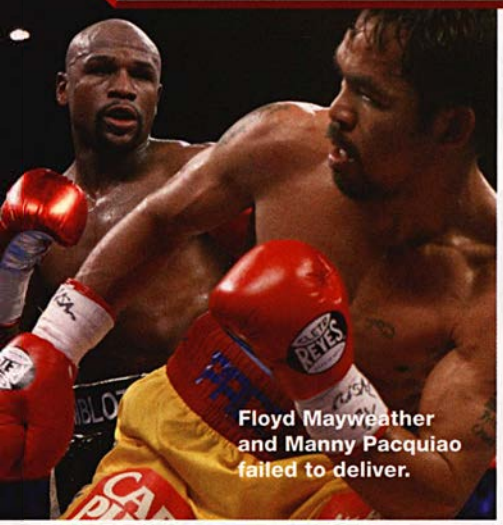


BEST FIGHTERS

Jones, Pacquiao, Mayweather, Bernard Hopkins, Shane Mosley, Kostya Tszyu, Marco Antonio Barrera, Erik Morales, Juan Manuel Marquez, Joe Calzaghe, Miguel Cotto (pictured)



SOCIAL MEDIA AGE



Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao failed to deliver.

The first half of the 2010s was a protracted wait for the superfight between Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao, which should have taken place in 2009 when both were at their peaks as the top welterweights and interchangeable Nos. 1 and 2 in the pound-for-pound rankings. However, due to the promotional rivalry (dubbed the "cold war") between Golden Boy Promotions, which represented Mayweather, and Top Rank, which promoted Pacquiao, on-and-off negotiations dragged on for years. The delay was compounded when Golden Boy parted ways with HBO in 2013 and formed a partnership with Showtime, which signed an exclusive multi-fight deal with Mayweather. The fighters' own complacency (encouraged by the multimillion-dollar paydays they received fighting other welterweights) also prolonged their showdown, which finally happened in 2015 and smashed the pay-per-view records with 4.6 million buys. It is said that Mayweather-Pacquiao generated more than $600,000 once all the revenue (PPV, gate, sponsorships, closed circuit, international TV rights, merchandise, etc.) was accounted for.

The five-year buildup to Mayweather-Pacquiao was fed by burgeoning social media platforms like Twitter, which helped foster a strange breed of hardcore fans who are as tribal as they are obsessive. Die-hard fans chose sides during the #MayPac wait, and many remain divided over their favorite fighters, promotional entities and networks.

However, social media can also bring fans together. Twitter can be an international "watch party" message board during big fights. YouTube allows fans to watch boxing from anywhere and any era, from classic bouts to live boxing cards.

Subscription sports streaming services that offer world-class boxing launched during the second half of the 2010s. DAZN, which was founded in 2015, went live in the U.S. in 2018, as did ESPN+, the live and on-demand streaming arm of the cable network. Both OTT services stream live weekly boxing and have helped fill the void left when HBO ceased its boxing programming in 2018.

Errol Spence and Terence Crawford haven't tried to deliver.

PROS

Social media emerges. Fans have unprecedented real-time interaction with each other and the boxing industry, including access to the fighters and major players.

CONS

As useful and entertaining as social media can be, it can also be a negative and divisive space. While streaming platforms have added different outlets to watch boxing, it can become confusing to the casual fan and potentially saturate the marketplace.

MEDIA

Streaming platforms, the internet (which includes social media platforms such as Twitter and Instagram), TV

ECONOMICS

License fees (from networks and streaming platforms), PPV revenue, sponsorship

POSTER STARS

Manny Pacquiao, Floyd Mayweather Jr., Wladimir Klitschko, Andre Ward, Canelo Alvarez, Gennadiy Golovkin, Tyson Fury, Anthony Joshua

BEST FIGHTERS

Pacquiao, Mayweather, Roman Gonzalez, Ward, Golovkin, Alvarez, Vasiliy Lomachenko, Terence Crawford, Naoya Inoue, Oleksandr Usyk

BIGGEST EVENTS

Floyd Mayweather Jr. vs. Canelo Alvarez (Sept. 14, 2013), Mayweather vs. Manny Pacquiao (May 2, 2015), Anthony Joshua vs. Wladimir Klitschko (April 29, 2017), Mayweather-Conor McGregor (Aug. 26, 2017), Gennadiy Golovkin-Alvarez I and II (Sept. 16, 2017; Sept. 15, 2018), Deontay Wilder vs. Tyson Fury II and III (Feb. 22, 2020; Oct. 9, 2021)

A LASTING IMPRESSION

MICHAEL ROSENTHAL REVERED 'THE BIBLE OF BOXING' AS A YOUNG FAN AND PROFESSIONAL 'NEWSPAPER GUY,' AND AS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF HE SAW THE RING'S BRAND CONTINUE TO THRIVE IN THE INTERNET AGE

By **Michael Rosenthal**

Rosenthal presents Carl Frampton with the 2016 Fighter of the Year award.

Newsstands seem anachronistic in the internet age, but they proliferated when I was growing up. I visited one in my neighborhood often, typically browsing through various sports magazines. I could spend hours there.

And one image always stood out to me as I scanned the covers: the word "Ring," with the graceful descender on the "R" swooping around to connect with the word "The" above.

To me that logo symbolized the sport itself and many of my boyhood heroes, most notably Muhammad Ali, whose unparalleled ability and bigger-than-life personality kept me spellbound into adulthood.

I enjoyed the stories and photos, which allowed me to know my favorite fighters intimately and educated me on what I was seeing when I watched fights on television. I especially liked the Ring Ratings, which revealed objectively which boxers mattered most.

No other outlet did what The Ring did. The Bible of Boxing? It certainly seemed that way to a kid smitten with the sport.

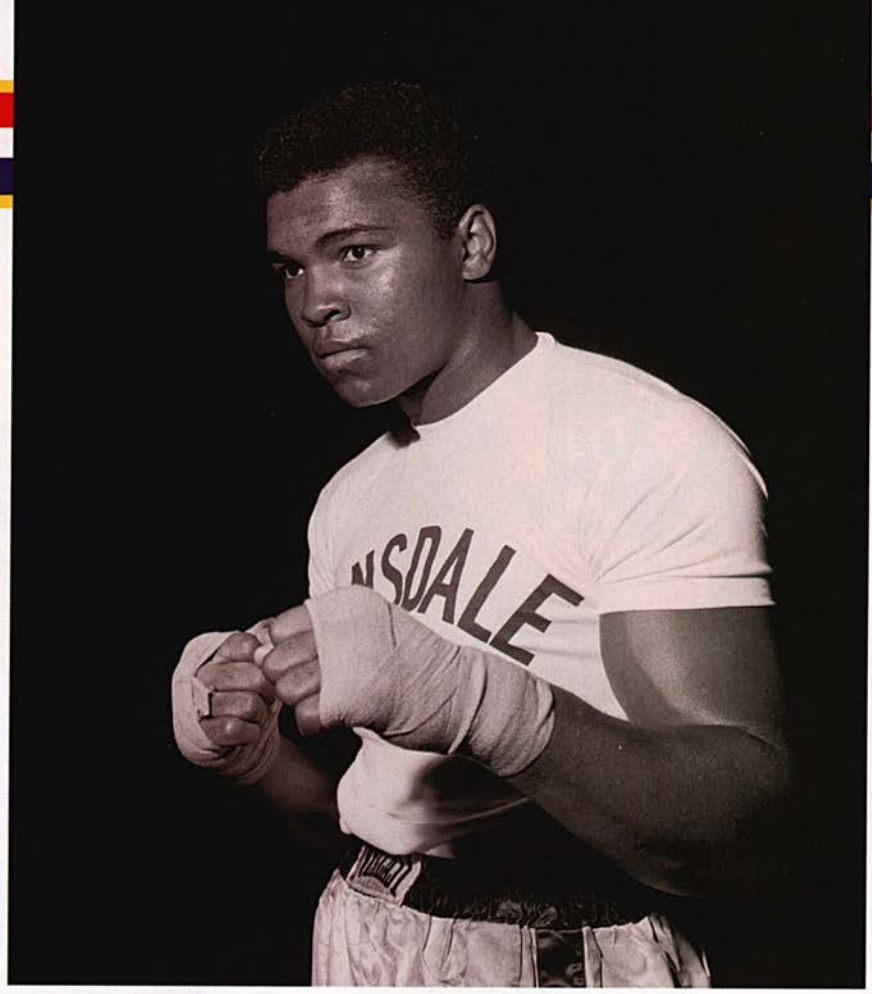
I didn't think about The Ring much as I started my career as a sportswriter, beginning with high school coverage and working my way up to professional sports at the Los Angeles Daily News.

I never lost my love of boxing, though. My boss once asked me what sports I liked aside from the major ones – football, baseball and basketball. I said boxing. Shortly afterward, the great Sugar Ray Robinson died and I was asked to write his obituary.

That led to more boxing assignments, a weekly boxing column I wrote for a decade and the reintroduction of The Ring into my life, this time as a source. I remember interviewing then-Editor-in-Chief Nigel Collins several times for stories I was working on.

His opinion was gold because of both his keen insight and his association with The Ring. Nothing had changed for me 20 years after I first discovered the magazine: It was still the bible.

I never imagined at that point that I would ever work for The Ring. I was



Ali retroactively received 1966 FOTY honors under Rosenthal's tenure.

a newspaper guy through and through and assumed I would retire one. Then things changed. The internet emerged, which altered the newspaper world for the worse. Suddenly, papers were downsizing. And I got caught up in the wave, losing my job at the San Diego Union-Tribune.

Fortunately for me, an unusual opportunity presented itself on the day I was laid off: I was asked, based on two decades of covering boxing, whether I was interested in being part of the team that would create and then operate The Ring's website, RingTV.com.

I immediately thought about my childhood and that logo, about the joy of devouring the pages of the magazine long before I became a journalist. Now I had a chance to be a part of it? Surreal.

Talk about landing on your feet. I accepted the job.

I worked almost exclusively for the website for several years, partnering with Doug Fischer and other diligent contributors I'll always admire to build it into one of the go-to sites in the sport. And then I became Editor-in-Chief of the magazine, following the likes of founder Nat Fleischer, Steve Farhood and Collins.

I didn't anticipate that move and was somewhat concerned. If newspapers took a hit from the internet, magazines took a Joe Frazier left hook. Who still read magazines?

RingTV was a success, which I attributed in part to The Ring's brand but mostly to the fact we produced a new, robust product that served the needs of voracious fans on a daily basis. I still wondered whether The Ring – particularly the magazine – had the same cachet it did when I was growing up.

I was encouraged by what I learned. The Ring had a solid base of devoted readers. And interaction with fans when I was Editor-in-Chief demonstrated to me that the brand still resonated.

I think first of my visits to the International Boxing Hall of Fame induction weekends in Canastota, New York, where hardcore fans gathered to catch glimpses of their boxing heroes or even interact with them. The Ring, which sells branded products, set up shop there and our magazines and T-shirts flew off our tables.

The Ring? Hell yeah!

Many fans approached me to ask whether I'd sign their magazines or to take a photo with them, not because I was special in any way but because I was a representative of something that was special to them, The Ring.

Indeed, it still touched people a century after Fleischer founded it.

I look back fondly on my time at The Ring, challenges and all. I did my best with a small but energetic staff to uphold the high standards established by Fleischer and his successors, which has allowed the magazine and website to maintain its credibility in a cynical business over the generations.

If I had to choose one thing of which I'm most proud, it was my decision to retroactively award Muhammad Ali the Ring Magazine Fighter of the Year for 1966, which he had earned inside the ropes but was denied – it was left vacant – because of his controversial stances on the draft and civil rights.

It was a small gesture but one about which I felt strongly. I was in a position to right what I believed was a wrong and I pulled the trigger.

Once again, I remember at that time thinking back to my boyhood, when The Ring was like holy scripture and Ali like a god. If you would've suggested then that my path would've crossed those of the magazine and The Greatest in any meaningful way, I would've suggested you see a licensed therapist.

The fact it became a reality is humbling. I'm grateful I played a small role in the remarkable history of The Ring.

TOP RANK
TOP RANK

LIFE IN THE TOP RANKS

ON THE VERGE OF HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY, PROMOTER BOB ARUM LOOKS BACK ON THE HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER

By **Joseph Santoliquito**

RIGHT: MIKEY WILLIAMS/TOP RANK

Bob Arum was born right in the middle of the Depression era, when uncertainty reigned and rarely anyone lived into their 90s. The Hall of Fame promoter laughs at the notion of ever thinking he would reach 90, which will happen on December 8.

"When and where I was raised, right there in Brooklyn, New York, during The Depression, you were lucky if you reached 65," said Arum, who would go on to create the promotional company Top Rank. "I did have uncles who lived into their 90s and a few great uncles who lived beyond 100. So it's not me.

"It has to be in the genes."

The Ring got a chance to sit down and chat with the living legend during Canelo Alvarez-Caleb Plant weekend in early November to discuss some of his favorite boxing memories.

THE RING: Who's the greatest fighter you ever promoted?

BOB ARUM: Of course, that has to be Muhammad Ali. He was not only an incredible fighter, but he had a wonderful, great personality and he was somebody very significant on the world stage. Anytime you promoted an Ali fight, the eyes of the world were on you. And that was a real heady thing. Later on, with other fighters that I promoted, like the Four Kings (Sugar Ray Leonard, Roberto Duran, Marvelous Marvin Hagler and Tommy Hearns) and other fights, they were good fights and very entertaining, but they didn't have the same global impact as the Ali fights had.

It was never hard selling tickets to an Ali fight, but sometimes it was very hard going through all of the hate that greeted Ali when he refused to step forward with the draft. You had to be very, very strategic and very careful promoting his fights. They didn't always end up in the best location, but it was Ali, and he elevated the event.

TR: What is the best fight you ever promoted?

BA: I would say that there are three of them. One is Ali-Frazier, the "Thrilla in Manila," which I did with [Don] King. I was the one who handled the finances for that. That was a life-and-death fight, going back and forth. The second I would put in there is Marvin Hagler and Tommy Hearns, and the third, believe it or not, happened recently, between Tyson Fury and Deontay Wilder (the third fight).

Ali was a genius in pulling Frazier's chain. A lot of what he did was very nasty, but it had a purpose, at least according to Ali. When the bell rang, Frazier just wanted to kill Ali. That was the wrong strategy. Ali was able to box the pants off Frazier in the beginning, and then when Ali got a little tired in the middle, Frazier came on and was pounding Ali. It looked like Frazier would knock him out. In the 11th round, Ali got his second wind and pounded Frazier to death. Thankfully, Eddie Futch (Frazier's trainer) stopped it. Frazier couldn't see. But Ali was as near exhaustion as I've ever seen him. Those two killed each other.

With Hagler-Hearns, by the time of the fight, the two really hated each other. We did a 25-, 26-city tour in 13 days and Hearns really got under Hagler's skin, not because Tommy did anything wrong, it was just Marvin being Marvin. There was such hate that when the bell rang, they forgot about boxing and just went after each other. Hearns in the first round hit Hagler with the best right hand that Tommy's ever thrown. Hagler took the punch and came back to engage with Hearns. Tommy had opened a cut on Hagler's forehead, and [referee] Richard Steele had the doctor look at it and had let the fight go. That was it. Hearns lost that fight in the first round.

Fury-Wilder III was spectacular. Two big guys, two strong guys, going at it, with five knockdowns. When Fury knocked Wilder down, I thought we would see a repeat of the second fight. Then Wilder came back and knocked Fury down twice and you thought the fight was over. It looked like Fury may have had it, and Fury came back and destroyed Wilder. Wilder wouldn't quit. He was always in the fight because of that punch. Fury and SugarHill [Steward, Fury's trainer,] planned that fight into making it into a rock'em, sock'em brawl.

TR: Who have been some of the most enjoyable fighters you ever promoted?

BA: I would put Ali and Tyson Fury there. Both are articulate guys and really great promoters. Ali in particular, because as clever as Tyson Fury is, Ali came up with stunts and things that he did that were just genius. Not that Fury is too far behind him as knowing how to promote a fight.

I think I worked well with Ali, because people are people. In the 1960s, I was living in New York with my family on 72nd Street in Manhattan. Herbert (Muhammad, Ali's manager) and Ali would come to New York on weekends. They would call to have dinner with us, always call for Sabbath dinner on Friday night, because the food was Kosher and the Muslims have the same dietary rules as Jews have.

Ali came to my son's bar mitzvah and showed up before the rabbi did. There was never any type of anti-Semitism, remotely. Remember, to be Ali's promoter and lawyer, I had to have the approval of [Nation of Islam leader] Elijah Muhammad. Elijah and Herbert liked me. Jim Brown introduced me to Ali, and he said to me after a few months that I got along better with them than he did. (laughs)

When Muhammad died, it hurt, but he was suffering from extreme Parkinson's and a lot of other things. In the end, he was barely functioning. For the last four or five years, he wasn't really Muhammad Ali. When Marvin died, that hit me really hard. Even after he retired, he was always in the gym working out.

Tyson Fury is very, very smart and a lot better read than people may think. I enjoy talking to him and he's always thinking of ways to promote himself and his fights. All of his ring walks are him. Fury knows what works and how to get people's attention. Remember, he came to this United States market, and when we signed him after his first fight with Wilder, he found out how to get the attention of the American fight fans.

Tyson is learning more and more with every fight how to promote even better.

AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

Arum promoted Manny Pacquiao throughout the legendary Filipino's prime years.

TR: How would you describe your relationship with Oscar De La Hoya and Floyd Mayweather?

BA: I don't know any of my fighters that were mean-spirited. Oscar and Floyd were tremendous to promote. Oscar and I had a relationship where I can feed him stuff, and he could expound on that in Spanish and English. Oscar is a great communicator.

Floyd was stubborn to a large extent, but he was relatively easy to promote. Where Floyd and I disconnected is I was an older guy who was well-connected to the African American community. But I hadn't realized that the community had changed, because it was a different generation. Floyd did realize the community had changed. Floyd knew how to reach them and he had urged me to do this and that; I didn't follow it, because I didn't understand. It turned out he was right and I was wrong. It happens. But I never had any problem with Floyd.

TR: What do you think is your greatest accomplishment?

BA: I think our deal with ESPN, when ESPN was just getting started. I promoted Ali; I promoted Hagler and Leonard. Anyone could have promoted those guys. The ESPN Top Rank series ran for 15 years. To do a show like that, on a network at the time that was so small, and we ran that weekly show for 15 years without a scandal. It wasn't dependent on one particular fighter. The series created stars and I think that ESPN series was my greatest accomplishment. People look at me strangely when I say that, but I really do feel that way.

TR: What would you say was your biggest mistake in boxing?

BA: I have so many. (laughs) But when we signed Vasiliy Lomachenko, we didn't want to sign [former unified cruiserweight champion and current IBF/WBA/WBO heavyweight titlist] Oleksandr Usyk, because cruiserweights made nothing in the U.S. I didn't realize what a great person and great personality Usyk is, which I regret. You make mistakes, but you always make mistakes.

I remember when we had Terence Crawford way down on our undercards, and I remember we started moving him up, and you see what's happened.

One thing I regret is how we lost a big share of the new young, white generation of boxing fans. And I don't know how or why. Boxing is very strong. We're especially very strong in boxing with the African American and Hispanic communities. We lost that young, white audience and we have to get it back.

Joseph Santoliquito is an award-winning sportswriter who has been working for Ring Magazine/RingTV.com since October 1997 and is the president of the Boxing Writers Association of America. He can be followed on twitter @JSantoliquito.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

WE PUT *SPORTS* IN THE *SPOTLIGHT*

BRANDING, CONSULTING, MARKETING, PUBLICITY

GET IN TOUCH

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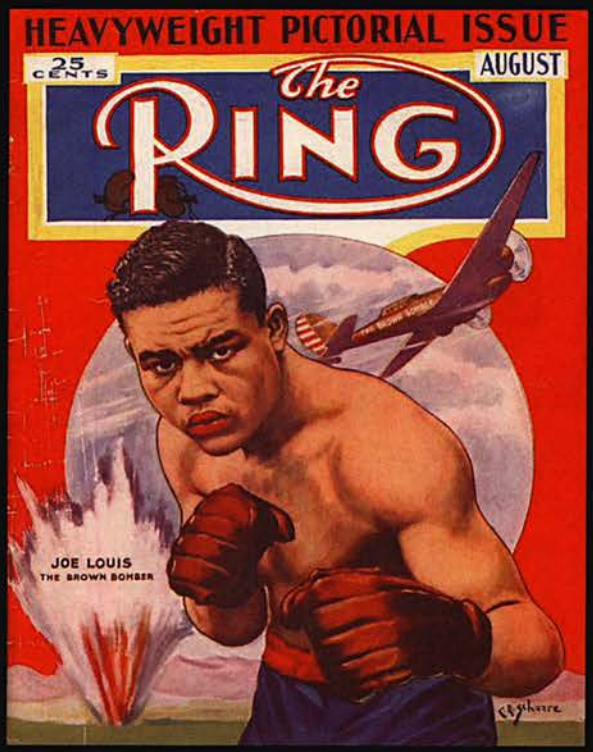
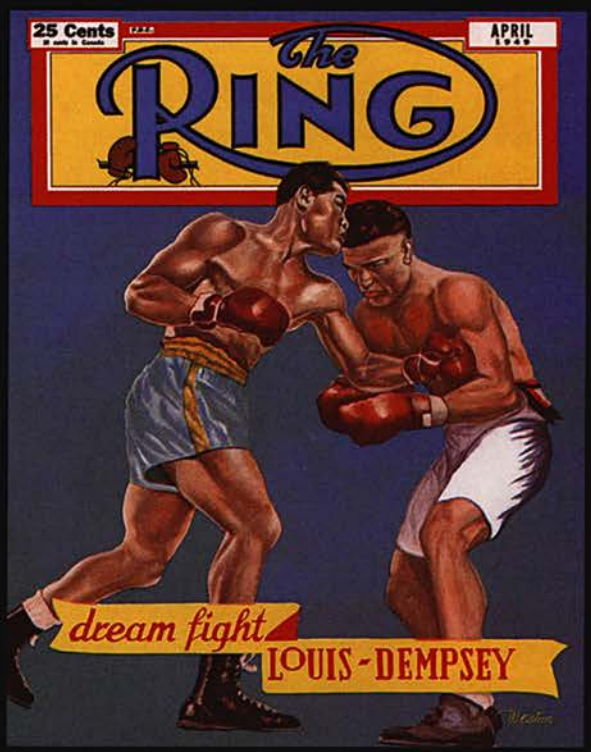
DOUBLE B SPORTS

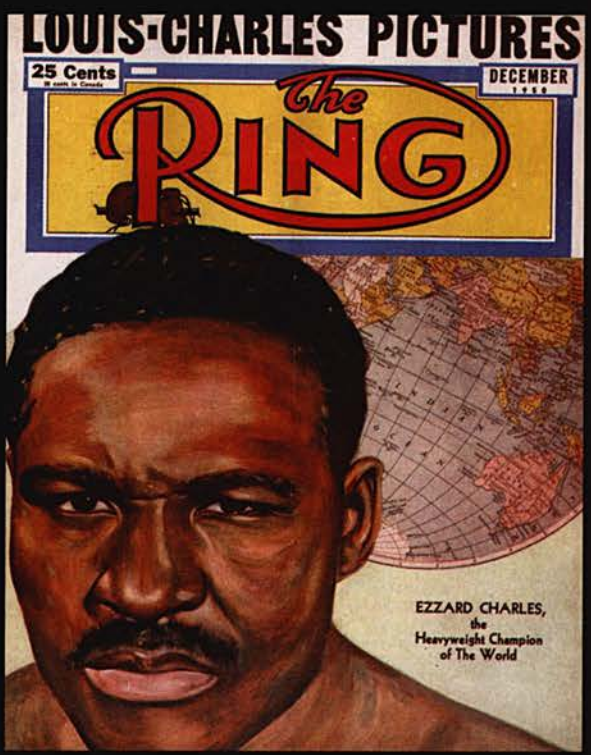




THE PAINTERS OF LEGENDS

THE RING'S CLASSIC PAINTED COVER ART, WHICH IMMORTALIZED SEVERAL BOXING ICONS OVER THE DECADES, IS A MAJOR PART OF THE PUBLICATION'S LEGACY »

By **Ingo Wegerich**



It is a very special honor to contribute to the 100th anniversary of the "Bible of Boxing." Congratulations, Ring Magazine! Here's to the next 100 years ...

Where do I start?

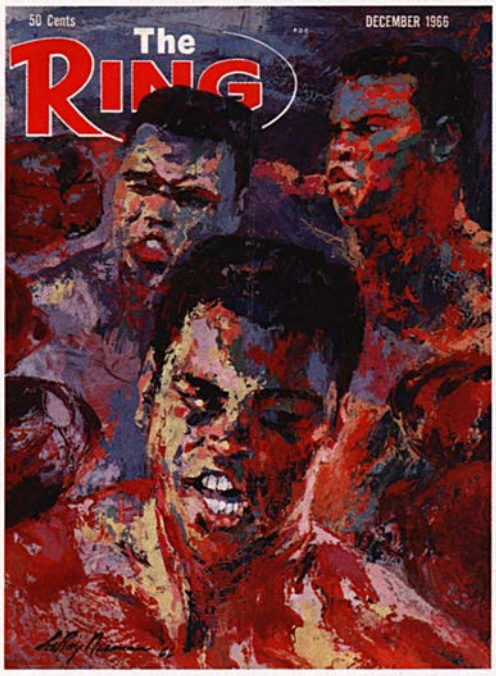
What do you see first when you purchase a copy of The Ring in a store? The cover picture. The covers are legendary and tell their own story. By now, many of the covers that are 50, 60, 70-plus years old are history themselves. I can't help but envision the Brown Bomber cover from August 1937 featuring Joe Louis when I think of historic magazine covers. In the background, a bomber plane is in the air dropping a bomb that detonates. Louis stands in the foreground in a fighting pose in front of a round disc, perhaps symbolically standing for "The Ring" or even for the globe.

Incidentally, this circle can be seen on every cover of the magazine in the early days. Perhaps not everyone knows that the Louis picture is actually a painted work of art. Despite its great age, over 80 years old, the original is still in very good condition and is owned by the Wegerich Fine Art Collection, like so many other works of art that were featured on the cover of this legendary magazine.

Sadly, only a few of the originals from this era of Ring Magazine cover art remain. Many have been destroyed by fire or water damage. The few that were preserved are true treasures.

The first person to make a name for himself as a painter in the history of The Ring was M.K. Fleming, an illustrator who created the first painted covers for the magazine during the early 1930s. Unfortunately, very little is known about him. The first cover on which his name appears is dated March 1931. I have yet to see any originals of these early painted artworks by Fleming. It is possible that none has survived.

Fleming was followed by C.R. Schaare (né Christian Richard "Dick" Schaare Jr.), who painted the most covers in the publication's history.



Top: Richard Slone pays tribute to the style of his mentor, LeRoy Neiman. Bottom: A Neiman original.

His name first appears on a cover in October 1932. Between 1932 and 1941, Schaare painted 82 artworks for the covers of The Ring. Works by Schaare appeared sporadically on the cover into the 1950s. His most famous cover is probably the Brown Bomber.

Schaare began his career as an assistant to an engraver. The company he worked for also created graphic design for newspaper advertisements, among other things. Schaare later worked as a sketch artist for a New York advertising agency. This shaped his style. His Ring covers are reminiscent of the style of advertising drawings of the time. They are painted vividly and often focused on a theme, like the Brown Bomber cover picture. Today, they can be understood as early examples of Pop Art.

Schaare was followed by Stanley Weston, an American editor, sportswriter, artist and photographer. Weston, who was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2006, promoted the sport throughout his career, which spanned several decades. He was passionately associated with the Bible of Boxing throughout his life. He started out with the publication as a summer intern when he was 13. He bought the magazine in 1989 when he was almost 70. Even after the sale, he remained loyal to The Ring as publisher.

Weston painted his first ring cover in December 1939. He painted 57 covers in all. Some of these originals are still in the possession of the Stanley Weston Archive, which is continued in Weston's memory by his grandson Patrick Scholz.

Weston designed his work exclusively for the cover pages of Ring magazine. This is clearly visible, for example, in the Ezzard Charles cover from December 1950. It shows a collage, painted with oil on paper, with glued elements. A globe cut out of a world map is pasted in the background. Charles' face is painted separately

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and glued on.

Another great example is the very famous Dream Fight cover from April 1949, showing Joe Louis and Jack Dempsey. Already at that time, "Dream Fights" or "Mythical Matchups" were being discussed by Ring magazine – like the recent cover story that debates who would have won between lightweight legends Roberto Duran and Pernell Whitaker. (Incidentally, the cover art for the December 2021 issue was painted by the well-known artist Richard T. Slone, noted later in this article.)

The Dream Fight cover image of Louis and Dempsey is unfinished. It was completed only as far as was necessary for the cover picture. In the unpainted portion of the original, there are notes by Weston on the colors to use to fill in the rest of the painting.

When talking about the painters of Ring covers, one name cannot be left out, even though only a few covers stem from him: LeRoy Neiman. His Muhammad Ali cover from December 1966 is legendary.

Neiman was best known for his expressive, garishly colored sports paintings. From the 1960s, he specialized in this genre and came to great fame. He is considered by many to be the first great sports artist, challenged only in later years by a new generation of artists such as Richard T. Slone. Neiman painted fight posters and program covers for such historic fights as Ali-Frazier I, Ali-Foreman, Ali-Frazier III, Ali-Spinks II, Hagler-Hearns and Tyson-Lewis. In 2007, he was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

Not to be forgotten is artist Gabe Perillo, who painted 18 covers for Ring magazine. Perillo was a graphic designer for The Ring under Nat Fleischer between 1969 and 1979.

Ring covers from the 1980s to the present usually feature photographs. But whenever spectacular fights are to be highlighted with special cover art, the chosen artist is almost invariably Slone.

Ingo Wegerich has made boxing artwork a labor of love.

Slone has painted covers for the Bible of Boxing for more than 25 years. He painted his first cover picture at age 22; the subject was the first Tyson-Holyfield fight in 1996. Slone has created 25 covers for The Ring, the Duran-Whitaker Dream Fight being his most recent. He has been the official artist of the International Boxing Hall of Fame since 1997, and he's painted the official fight program cover for most major showdowns of recent times, such as Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Manny Pacquiao, Mayweather-Canelo Alvarez and Deontay Wilder-Tyson Fury I and II, to name a few. Slone is undoubtedly No. 1 among living artists who combine painting and boxing. His paintings are characterized by an energetic style, well illustrating the emotions and dynamics of fights.

Ingo Wegerich is a lawyer, art collector and namesake of the Wegerich Fine Art Collection. The art collection specializes in contemporary art related to boxing. This collection is one of the most extensive of its kind, ranging from the 1930s to the present. www.wegerich-fineart.com Instagram: @wegerichfineart

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